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ROSA AMERICANA, LTD.

FIXED PRICE LIST #27

**A Price List of (Mostly) “Pretty” Coins
*in All Grade and Price Levels***



WELCOME!

Close on the heels of my FPL #26 that featured affordable rarities, I am happy to bring you Fixed Price List #27, which also has a focus – colonials that are pretty. They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and indeed there are different standards of beauty in different cultures, all around the world. But for numismatists there is generally broad agreement on what makes a coin beautiful – good color, clean surfaces, few marks, no damage (environmental or manmade), and overall, a coin that has the right “look” that makes you happy. Oddly, grade here is not all that relevant when it comes to a pretty coin. There are coins that are technically uncirculated but are actually quite unattractive, and there are coins that are clean and evenly-worn which retain nice color and surface quality and have exceptional eye appeal even when lower grade. But pricing does seem to rely more on grade, especially for slabbed coins. This is a shame, because an unattractive coin graded 60 will sell for much more money than a very attractive one graded 45 – even though most collectors might prefer that 45 coin in their cabinet. The difference here is better understood with the qualifiers used in the written grading system versus the numerical one. A 60 coin is the absolute lowest quality uncirculated there is – it may be technically unworn, but have lifeless surfaces with marks, roughness or other problems. But a 45 coin is the absolute best EF there is – in the written grading system (which I have always preferred) it is called Choice EF for a reason. Which sounds better to you: the worst of one grade level or the best of another? The quality-price disparity is even more striking with coins that are technically just two points apart, an AU58 and a MS60, where just the faintest bit of rub (often nothing more than oft-noted cabinet friction over a couple centuries of storage by collectors) can equate to tens of thousands of dollars difference in pricing, yet that cheaper 58 coin will always look better than the 60 one does.

Collectors of a certain age had a shorthand term for this kind of quality: “a Robert Martin coin.” Robert, who passed away far too soon, had a legendary appetite for pieces that had the right look. A Robert Martin copper coin was a nice even brown, smooth and hard surfaces with a bit of gloss, and a wholesome, natural appearance that had not been “improved” by anything other than a dollop of Coin Care. A coin could have clips or planchet flaws – which were of course there before the coin was struck, but whether the coin graded VG or AU, it would be free of unsightly damage. Collector Jerry Bobbe has called that sort of damage “HIPS” – Human Impairment, Post Strike. The problem most collectors face is that there aren’t all that many pretty colonials out there – most of them do have some sort of HIPS. For many varieties, in every series, there might only be a couple coins that are choice and the rest have varying degrees of problem – and for some varieties, the ONLY survivors may all be ugly. Do you eschew those unattractive coins, knowing you will never get close to a magic number if you do (think 300 Connecticut coppers or 100 New Jersey copper varieties)? Robert Martin was actually one of the first collectors of the modern era to get to the 300-variety mark for his CT coppers, but his eye for quality made him dislike some of the pieces in his own collection which were not up to his standard. So he did what was right for him – he sold those pieces off, knowing he would never be able to get to that variety count again (and making less-picky collectors quite happy, as those discarded coins put at least two others over that 300 mark in one fell swoop). A look at the Stack’s Bowers offering of Robert’s frontline collection shows the result of his quest, and there are few coins that even the pickiest collector wouldn’t happily welcome into their own cabinet today (though he did buy some less attractive secondary coins that fit into his provenance

collection – Painted Die Varieties, or with paper envelopes and tickets from earlier famous collections).

The other side of the coin, so to speak, is represented by Syd Martin, also gone far too soon. While Syd could and did buy many extremely choice coins, he was a “completeist” – he wanted every variety, and he came closer than anyone in the history of collecting colonials to doing so. That meant taking a truly ugly coin if that was the only example of a variety available – though if a notable upgrade appeared later, he would happily buy that one too. Syd appreciated every coin he had – and for those of you who have bought things from the recent auctions of his collection, you might have noticed that the handwritten envelope for a lower grade common NJ copper he paid \$50 for has just as much care and attention to detail as the envelope for that Unc. NJ that cost him \$50,000. Syd had no qualms about paying top dollar for a newly discovered variety, even if it would become the least-attractive coin in his collection of that series.

There is no right or wrong way to collect here, and it is truly a personal choice for every numismatist. Truth be told, I veer far more to the Syd side of things in the areas that I collect, as well as in the colonial issues I deal in. But a completeist can certainly appreciate a coin that is choice, so this list will feature pieces that check that “pretty” box, regardless of grade – with, as always, an emphasis on coins that are excellent value for the money.

This list is being issued before the ANA convention, and will likely be the last list I get out in 2024, as the Fall is taken up with travel to England for Conder-token stuff (a series I collect), the C4 convention in Baltimore, and then the winter holidays. Speaking of Conder tokens, many of the pieces that colonial specialists collect are, indeed, Conder tokens. From the Talbot, Allum & Lee mules, the Kentucky tokens, and many of the early Washington issues, all were made in England, and listed by authors as British Conder tokens from the time they were made. The colonial-Conder gap should not be as wide as it is: Conder tokens were all 18th century productions, mostly in copper, with lots of die varieties, ranging in rarity from common to exceedingly rare, and with contemporary circulating counterfeits in all of the larger series, which flooded the market and led to the collapse of public trust in circulating copper, leading to a national coinage that drove them (mostly) out of circulation. Sound familiar? It’s literally the exact same playbook as the state copper issues here on this side of the Atlantic.

To introduce you to the wonderful world of Conder tokens – where you can get something dated 1787 in full mint red for a couple hundred bucks, I might add! – I will make an offer to all readers of this price list. If you email me privately that you are interested, I will gift you a one-year digital membership to the Conder Token Collectors Club, which will also allow you access to all 80+ back issues of the club Journal. No obligations, no pressure, if you like the club you can renew (there are both print and digital options, the print one obviously costing more since printing and postage costs are involved), and if it’s not for you, you simply don’t renew. You have absolutely nothing to lose, and may find that you can get your 18th century copper fix and discover an awful lot of interesting tokens along the way.

Thanks again for your kind attention and patronage! 2024 marks my 35th year of dealing in colonials (and, amazingly, 50 years since the purchase of my first coin), and that kind of longevity only happens with the trust and friendship I’ve been fortunate to have with you all. Enjoy the read, and if you see something of interest, please give me a call or email – as always, the first person who orders it gets the coin! I hope you all have a wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing many of you, either in Chicago at the ANA or in November at the C4 convention in Baltimore.

-- Jeff Rock --

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD AUGUST, 1940-2024



Photo courtesy of Craig McDonald

Literally on the day this list was originally going to be mailed out, the hobby got the news of the passing of Richard August, and out of respect I decided to hold it off a few days. One of the most knowledgeable collectors, Dick formed one of the finest collections of colonials, on a budget that could only be called limited. But over the course of six decades of collecting, starting in an era without photos of many varieties and dealers who seldom attributed their colonials, Dick would seldom leave a coin show without making a score. A fixture at C4 conventions from the beginning, and at local and national coin shows for more than three decades prior to that, Dick was our last surviving link to the great collectors of the mid-20th century. While Dick did not write much for publication, he was always willing to share his knowledge, as well as his collection. Working as a teacher for most of his life, Dick had a sideline career as a coin dealer – selling duplicates and downgrades, as well as things he cherry picked but did not want to keep for his own collection, and issued sporadic price lists, usually handwritten and Xeroxed, with no pics or real descriptions – but he was a conservative grader and if he said a coin was nice, you could be certain it was. For those who knew him, he will be greatly missed. For those who did not have the chance to meet him, suffice it to say you will be astounded whenever his collection comes up for sale. R.I.P., my friend.

An Affordable, Attractive 1652 Oak Tree Sixpence *From the Robert Martin Collection*



1. 1652 Oak Tree Sixpence. Noe 21, Salmon 2a-B, W-400, a distinct type with IN on the obverse. Rarity-5. 31.8 grains. This is the Robert Martin specimen, and appeared as Lot 5012 of the Stack's Bowers November 2019 sale of his collection shortly after his untimely death. It was plated and described in that sale as follows:

1652 Oak Tree Sixpence. Noe-21, Salmon 2a-B, W-400. **Rarity-5. IN on Obverse. Fine Details--Damage (PCGS).** 31.6 grains. Slightly wavy and creased but without sizeable or distracting abrasions. The surfaces are glossy and smooth, displaying slate patina with swaths of peach hues and a faint colorful iridescence. The obverse is drawn mildly towards 1 o'clock and the reverse is ideally centered. The strike is uneven on the obverse, revealing just a ghost of the tree and a few select letters in the legends as seen on the Craige 11007 and Kendall 2345 specimens. The legends remain full on the reverse, framing a sharp date and much of the denomination. Pleasantly original and remarkably attractive.

Provenance: From the Robert M. Martin Collection. Ex Heritage's sale of April 2011, lot 3908.

While we agree with the grade on the slab, we have seen similar examples with these small creases that made it into regular holders, without a details grade. The reverse on this one is particularly sharp, and approaches full VF detail, while the weakness on the obverse is found on nearly all examples of the variety, and in the 2011 Heritage sale Robert bought this from it was graded as a full VF. The final line of the Stack's Bowers description really encapsulates the majority of Robert Martin's collection – he only added pieces that met his standards for eye appeal, and any coin with his provenance is going to be attractive. While there has been a large number of Massachusetts silver coins sold in the last decade, affordable coins have all but disappeared from the market, as collectors wisely purchase these rare and historical items for less money today than they would have cost a decade ago – indeed, Robert paid \$1,840 for this exact coin in 2011, and we are able to offer it today, 13 years later for just a bit less than it realized then – this is excellent value for your collecting dollar!.....\$1,800

In the PCGS slab pictured, accompanied by Robert's handwritten envelope

SYD MARTIN'S GORGEOUS PCGS MS61 NOE-3 PINE TREE SHILLING

*Ex Wurtzbach, Clarke, Boyd, Norweb, Hain
The Famous 1914 ANS Exhibition Coin!*



2. 1652 Pine Tree Shilling. Large Planchet. Noe-3, Salmon 3-C, W-710. Rarity-6. Without Pellets at Trunk. PCGS Graded MS-61, a grade no one would argue with. This is the Syd Martin example, with a provenance stretching back nearly a century, and the frontline coin in many of the finest collections of Massachusetts silver ever formed. A very special coin, expertly catalogued when it was offered as Lot 8174 of the August 2023 portion of Syd's collection, sold by Stack's Bowers. The description was so top-notch that it deserves to be quoted in full:

72.5 grains. **The 1991 ANS Exhibition Coin (No. 86).** Medium silver-gray with pleasing iridescent powder blue and reddish-rose highlights that are particularly vivid when the coin is viewed with the aid of direct lighting. Close trimmed at right on obverse, left on reverse, with the tops of WE running off the flan on the latter side, other letters on both sides close to or running onto the edge. Peripheral legends fully legible, nonetheless. Struck on a jumbo flan, 30.2 mm in diameter. Two planchet creases from the rocker press are noted, as is a minor planchet crack at 4 o'clock relative to the obverse. The central design elements are sharp to full apart from a touch of softness within the upper left branches of the pine tree and at the base of the denomination, both the result of the aforementioned planchet creases. With no troublesome marks and much mint luster in evidence, this piece would not offend in a higher grade Mint State holder.

Including the present specimen, we have offered only six distinct examples of this Noe number in the last 14 years, and as the only Mint State coin this is by far the standout in the group. The Partrick specimen is the finest certified, at NGC MS-65, and we are aware of two examples that have been graded MS-62 by PCGS: the Boyd-Ford coin (called "Choice Extremely Fine" in our

Ford XII sale); and the Salmon specimen, earlier ex Earle-Ellsworth-Garrett. It is difficult to distinguish between the Norweb-Hain specimen offered here and the two PCGS MS-62s, for they each have their strengths, upon which different collectors will place greater or lesser emphasis. In the columns for luster, strike, originality, and that particularly subjective quality known as eye appeal, this one certainly gets high marks from your cataloger (JLA).

Provenance: From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Spink & Son's sale of the Lincoln Collection, March 1935; Carl Wurtzbach; T. James Clarke; F.C.C. Boyd; Wayte Raymond; New Netherlands Coin Company, privately, July 31, 1956, to the following; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, lot 1193; our (Stack's) sale of the Hain Family Collection, January 2002, lot 99; Anthony Terranova, May 5, 2005, to the following; our sale of the David M. Sundman Collection, November 2013 Baltimore Auction, lot 4011; Mike Wierzba, March 2018.

There is not much to add to such a glowing description – and the coin truly deserves every superlative offered! To the list of choice examples mentioned, we can add the Roper specimen, which was the Stickney coin, graded EF45 when last sold in 2009, and which was heavily clipped to just over 60 grains, and with some reverse scratches – and yet brought \$23,000 at that auction, 15 years ago! The Ford coin mentioned in the description was the Crosby plate coin, ex Mills and last sold as part of the Alan Weinberg collection (its graded increasing from Choice EF to MS62), bringing \$28,800 – it is now the Salmon plate coin, as well as the plate coin for the variety in the Whitman colonial *Encyclopedia*. The Partrick coin was unknown to the collecting fraternity and was found in England. Partrick paid a strong \$2,500 for it in 1974 – but that was a bargain compared to the \$70,500 it brought in the first sale of his collection by Heritage in January 2015! Think that price was strong? The exact same coin appeared in Heritage's February 2017 sale – just two years later – where it sold for a jaw-dropping \$111,625!

When Syd bought this example from the Sundman collection at the 2013 C4 auction it cost him \$22,235 with the buyer's fee which, in comparison with some of those previous auction records was certainly a fair price for an extremely choice coin, especially one with such an illustrious provenance chain. Wurtzbach and Clarke were rightly known for the quality and breadth of their Massachusetts silver collections, F.C.C. Boyd had one of the choicest and most complete collections of colonials ever formed (thanks to his purchase of the Hillyer Ryder collection, intact, from Wayte Raymond), and Mrs. Norweb's collection is one of the most famous of the 20th century blockbuster auctions, rightly up there with Garrett, Ford, and Newman. It was only fitting that this spectacular coin ended up in Syd Martin's collection, and now you have the chance to add this coin to your own cabinet – and you can even do so at less money than Syd paid for the coin nearly 11 years ago!.....\$21,000



AN ATTRACTIVE, EVENLY CIRCULATED ST. PATRICK HALFPENNY



3. Undated (ca. 1652-1674) St. Patrick Halfpenny. Martin 1-B, W-11540. Rarity-5. Copper. Reeded Edge. PCGS graded Good-4, though nicer. 117.68 grains. Undergraded by PCGS, the coin is easily of the VG level on the obverse (king side), and closer to a full Fine on the reverse. Exceptional color for a circulated example, the surfaces hard and with the minimum of marks from its time in commerce, with just some slight roughness at the splasher near the crown being the only thing of note. The tops of FLOREAT are weak but mostly visible, the rest of the legend strong on either side. A lovely example for the grade, and one that has more eye appeal than some we've seen a grade higher with rough surfaces or more marks. The large-sized St. Patrick coppers have been traditionally called halfpennies, while the smaller sizes are called farthings, though it is unclear whether these were the intended valuations. That, of course, is just one of many mysteries with this coinage – and it wasn't until the 2018 publication of Syd Martin's book on these coinages that collectors had descriptions of all known die varieties of both sizes – the recent passing of Syd a loss to the hobby, but he left behind four wonderful books on colonials (and another on 1932 Washington medals). The larger halfpenny sized coins were first catalogued by Robert A. Vlack in *The Colonial Newsletter*, January, 1968 (Issue #21). There are only nine known varieties of the large halfpenny sized coins – compared to 200 or so of the smaller-sized farthings! One – or both? – sizes were brought to New Jersey by Mark Newby, an English Quaker, in 1681 and were made legal tender in that colony the following year, provided he would exchange those coppers on demand. Newby died the year after that, and his estate contained £30 in coppers, estimated at roughly 10,800 coins; these have been traditionally collected with New Jersey coppers because of the link to that state, and the first two coins on the Maris plate are these St. Patrick issues. A pleasing, affordable example of a scarcer variety and type, which will almost surely be broken out and resubmitted for grading.....\$675

From the Cohasco Collection of Colonials formed by Sir Philip H. Snyder, circa 1963-68. Cardboard 2x2 included.

A RARE ST. PATRICK FARTHING, EX ERIC NEWMAN



4. (ca. 1670) St. Patrick's Farthing. Martin 1b.1-Ba.1. High Rarity-6. Fine, nearly choice, in an NGC slab where this is graded F12. This example is from the ERIC P. NEWMAN collection, and appeared as Lot 30288 of the May, 2014 sale of the first portion of his colonial coins by Heritage, where it was ably described as follows:

(c. 1670) FARTH St. Patrick Farthing Fine 12 NGC. Breen-208, W-11500. At least 70 variants exist of the Breen-208 design type. Although slightly out of round, this piece displays good detail at the peripheries with unusually high rims. Weakness and heavy wear are confined to the centers. The faint brass splasher is spot-on the crown, appearing as subtle, dull-gray coloration. The surfaces show pleasing, glossy brown color, with smoothness from wear softening most of the planchet irregularities and minimizing porosity. A light die crack extends from St. Patrick's cross to the L in PLEBS. Specialists will note the uncommon positioning of the reverse elements, with St. Patrick's staff pointing directly to the L in PLEBS and his head fully beneath the T in QVIESCAT. All in all, a lovely example of the type and grade level. *Ex: Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society*

Since that was written the Syd Martin book on St. Patrick's issues has been published, and the variety proved to be a very rare one, rated by Martin as High R-6, and both this obverse and reverse die were used only in this combination. An attractive example, still in its distinct NGC holder with the special Newman label, and accompanied by the original lot ticket and Newman's distinct typed envelope which has extensive pencil annotations that were made by the late John Griffie when he examined Eric's collection. A very attractive example, the legends particularly strong, and with an exceptional provenance.....\$1,150

1681 New Jersey St. Patrick
farthing
Very good
104 A¹²
Die crack from St. Pat. cross to L
Lone man
1, 1/2, 1/4, #F19, VP30
+ 7 others
\$2.50
mgx

A THIN PLANCHET ELEPHANT TOKEN **A very rare type, with excellent color**



5. Undated (ca. 1694) London Elephant Token. Hodder 2-B, W-12040. Rarity-5. GOD PRESERVE LONDON, Thin Planchet. PCGS graded Good Details--Graffiti. A circulated example of this rarity, though severely undergraded by PCGS – the detail on the elephant side supports the grade of a Fine, while the thin planchet means there was not enough metal to flow into the deeper parts of the reverse die, accounting for the weakness there – but a split grade of Fine/VG is warranted based simply on strike and wear. For a circulated piece this one has exceptional color, with lighter brown toning atop smooth, hard surfaces. There are some ancient scratches on either side, the ones at the top of the obverse looking like the letters TA and ones at the lower quadrant of the reverse shield reading TD – perhaps an early example of a love token? Another longer scratch on the reverse through the left of the shield – all these are ancient and toned down to the surface color so not as distracting as would otherwise be the case. Most Elephant tokens of this variety are struck on thick planchet, and Q. David Bowers notes in the *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins* that “a few are on thin, wide planchets,” and these pieces always command a significant premium. The thin planchet pieces tend to come in higher grade – at a lot more money. A nice Choice Unc brought \$23,500 in Stack’s January, 2013 auction, while a lesser Unc brought \$9.775 in September, 2005. A couple of the thin planchet ones aren’t actually on thin planchets, but rather overstrikes on Charles II halfpence which are themselves thinner than the typically seen thick planchet elephant token stock (two of these overstrikes have sold recent, an MS65 at \$18,600 in the 2018 C4 auction and an MS62 at \$10,800 in the 2020 C4 sale). The grade of surviving thin planchet pieces seems to be in the XF-Choice Unc. grade range, suggesting they were saved by early British collectors. This is the first well-circulated example of the type that we ever recall seeing (though circulated thick planchet pieces can be found with very little searching, so there is an interesting story here to discover!). If you don’t have five-figures to drop on one of the Unc ones – or even mid to high four figures for an EF – then this coin will certainly fit the bill! It is the most affordable example of the very rare thin planchet type we have seen in 25 years, and is another coin that will surely be broken out and resubmitted for an accurate grade. Only.....\$900

AN NGC VF30 EXAMPLE OF THE VERY RARE VTILE DVLCI VARIETY OF THE 1722 ROSA AMERICANA PENNY

The Phillip W. Keller Specimen



6. 1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2-A.1, W-1256, the VTILE DVLCI reverse. Rarity-6. NGC graded VF30. This is the Phillip W. Keller specimen of this rare variety and distinct type coin, and appeared as Lot 3029 in the Heritage Auctions October, 2010 sale of his collection where it was plated and described as follows:

Several varieties of the 1722 Rosa Americana penny are known, with this specimen representing the rare W-1256 type. Note that NGC has mistakenly called this piece the UTILE DULCI variety on the holder, but the spelling on the coin is definitely VTILE DVLCI, with GEORGIUS in the obverse legend. Moderate, even wear shows on the devices of this coin, but the planchet was well produced, with no areas of granularity. Listed on page 40 of the 2011 *Guide Book*. MRB VF25. *Ex: MANA Convention Sale (New Netherlands, 10/1953). From The W. Philip Keller Collection of U.S. Colonials. (#110)*

This example brought \$1,150 at that auction nearly a dozen years ago, a telling comment on the rarity and desirability of this major type coin, which is *Redbook* listed, though underpriced there in relation to more recent auction records – a VF20 sold in the 2012 C4 sale for \$3,220, while a F12 from the Syd Martin collection brought \$1080 in September 2023; in that sale it was noted that Syd had only seen 8 examples and that a High R-6 rarity rating was probably more accurate, a claim we also agree with. As noted in the Heritage description the NCG holder incorrectly identifies this as the UTILE DULCI type; because of that error we have not shown the slab, but the coin is still in it. Accompanying the piece is Keller's original typed and handwritten envelope, with extensive notations on both sides (only the front is illustrated above). Keller bought this rarity from New Netherlands Coin Co in 1953, in the era that firm was handling much of the F.C.C. Boyd and Virgil Brand material, and this likely comes from one of those collections as well. With a price realized at auction of \$1,150 for this exact coin a decade ago, and nearly \$1100 for Syd's inferior specimen just last year, this has to be a great buy today at just slightly more money.....\$1,500

In an NGC slab, accompanied by Keller's original typed and handwritten envelope.

And Philip Keller's 1722 Rosa Americana Penny NGC XF45



7. 1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 3.1-D.6, W-1272. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI legend.
This example appeared as Lot 3034 of the October 2010 Heritage Auction sale of the Philip W. Keller collection, where it was incorrectly described as a great rarity, as follows:

UTILE DULCI 1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Extremely Rare Martin 3-D, W-1272. 1722 PENNY Rosa Americana Penny, UTILE XF45 NGC. Martin 3-D, W-1272, R.7. The extremely rare Obverse 3, which shows no stop after the word REX. Both sides show an intriguing combination of texture and smoothness, of deep browns and lighter peaches and apricots. Though lightly worn, this is an impressively appealing Choice XF coin. Listed on page 40 of the 2011 *Guide Book*.

Purchased from Richard Picker (8/11/1961).

In Syd Martin's book on the series, the variety was given an R-4 rating, meaning scarce, but not rare, which seems accurate as we have found close to a dozen auction and fixed price sales of the variety. It is a distinct type though, with stops after all the obverse words save for REX, likely because the last letter of that word is very close to the bust and there simply was not room to squeeze it in. The Keller sale was notable for having most of its coins undergraded by the slabbing company, which apparently used Keller's 1960-era grades for many of the pieces, without taking into account how much grading standards have since changed. We think this example to be a full AU, and have seen less-attractive coins in full 55 slabs, and it may be worth resubmitting. Regardless of 45, 50 or 55 grade, it is a strongly-detailed example with great color and eye appeal, and is available at just.....\$1,400

In the original slab as pictured, and accompanied by Richard Picker's original printed envelope, with Keller's handwritten annotations, including a variety attribution for a trial list of Rosa Americana varieties – something that would remain unaccomplished for 60 years until Syd Martin published his masterful reference work.

A Lovely NGC AU50 1722 Hibernia Halfpenny
Harp to Left Type
From the Eric Newman collection, with envelope



8. 1722 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.1-Bb.2, W-12690. Rarity-3. First Type, Harp at Left. About Uncirculated, in an NGC slab where this is graded AU50 BN, though perhaps a bit nicer than that overall. This is the ERIC P. NEWMAN specimen, sold as Lot 30353 in the May 2014 sale of his collection by Heritage, where it was described as follows:

1722 1/2P Hibernia Halfpenny, Type One, Harp Left AU50 NGC. M. 4.1-Bb.2, W-12690, R.3. As a date, the Harp Left type of William Wood's 1722 Hibernia halfpenny is rarely seen in Mint State, and pleasing AU pieces are nearly as elusive. Five chief varieties are known, differentiated by the number of harp strings present. Martin describes six minor varieties for the eight strings variant, of which 4.1-Bb.2 is one of the more plentiful, and is often seen in type specialists' cabinets. This representative exhibits strong detail, particularly on the obverse, with smooth, problem-free surfaces and even olive-brown patina overall.

Ex: Richard Picker; Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society.

Light rub on the high points as expected, but free of any major marks, abrasions or damage, and we think a 53 grade more appropriate, especially with the lovely color. This first type with the harp to left is seldom found in higher grades and it seems most spent quite some time in circulation. Accompanied by the original lot ticket from the Newman sale, TWO different Newman envelopes (only one pictured above, this one made in the 1960s when Bob Vlack was researching die varieties of the Hibernia coinage, a project that was completed but sadly never published; the attribution number on this envelope is Vlack's; a table in the rear of Syd Martin's work correlates the Vlack and Martin numbers), and a cotton liner bearing the name and address of Richard Picker, the first dealer to specialize in American colonial coins. A lovely example, especially with this outstanding provenance and accompanying paper ephemera.....\$1,200

Accompanied by all the paper ephemera mentioned in the lot description above.

***Ted Craige's 1722 Harp Right Hibernia Halfpenny
PCGS Graded AU55***



9. 1722 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.7-C.6, W-12810. Rarity-5. Second Type, Harp at Right. PCGS graded AU-55. This example is from the famous collection of Ted Craige, and appeared in the Stack's Bowers March, 2013 sale of his holdings, where it was plated and described as follows:

1722 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.7-C.6, W-12810. Rarity-5. Second Type, Harp at Right. AU-55 (PCGS). 112.4 grains. Medium to dark brown on the obverse and reverse with smooth wear on the high points of the curls. Clean surfaces with minimal signs of circulation or handling. Identifiable by a small planchet chip from the rim to the E of REX. Usual die state with the reverse displaying extensive crumbling and die rust. An attractive example of this die pairing for the color as well as the surfaces. *Provenance: From the Ted L. Craige Collection. Paper envelope included.*

The envelope accompanying the coin is an early one from collector/dealer Bob Vlack, with his West Peabody, Massachusetts address stamped on the back flap. The typed envelope has his attribution number (these are correlated in an appendix in the Syd Martin book to Martin numbers), and the statement that this example was then just the "3rd known." Times change, research is done, and rarity falls, but the variety has at least remained an R-5 or maybe a bit tougher, as Syd Martin noted just 8 examples in all grades in his 2007 reference book on the series. Quite pleasing and difficult to find with this kind of eye appeal, this example is stronger and more visually attractive than Syd Martin's own coin, which he used for both the obverse and reverse plates in his book. No finer example of the variety has appeared for sale at auction or on a fixed price list, and this may well be the finest known – it is just amazing that very choice examples of rarer types and die varieties are available for such little money!.....\$950

Accompanied by the original Robert A. Vlack typed envelope, with ink and pencil annotations made by Ted Craige.

**A PLEASING RARITY-7 VARIETY HIBERNIA HALFPENNY
THE OBVERSE PLATE COIN IN THE SYD MARTIN BOOK**

Wonderful reverse die-cutting error, with an errant letter!



10. 1723 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.32-Gc.11, W-13120. Rarity-7. PCGS graded Fine-12, though nicer than that. An evenly-worn specimen that we think merits the full VF grade. Well-struck, with the legends, date and design details all far sharper than a solid Fine. Sharp enough to show the errant letter I that was originally punched far too high at the upper reverse, easily seen extending into the denticles between the I and A of HIBERNIA. Despite a fairly glaring legend error, this reverse was paired with two other obverse dies, while this obverse is only known with this reverse. Of the three uses of this reverse, this is by far the rarest variety, with just four examples noted by Syd Martin, including this one which was not only in his collection, purchased from Robert Vlack, but which also served as the PLATE COIN for this obverse in his book. Only two other examples of the variety have been sold at auction, a second Syd Martin coin which was lower grade and rough, and the Ted Craig coin which was lower grade and granular. The grades of the other two examples of the variety Syd noted are unknown, but if one had been much nicer and photos were available, Syd would have likely used that as the obverse plate coin, so it is likely that this is the nicest example of the variety out there. Despite spending some time in circulation, the coin is actually quite choice for the grade (whether Fine or VF!), with hard surfaces, no marks of any importance, and pleasing chocolate brown color. Imagine what an attractive example of a state coinage issue that was R-7, finest known, and a plate coin in a reference book would cost. Now subtract a few zeroes, and you have the price of this coin – a situation we don't think will last long!.....\$500

In the special Syd Martin slab, as pictured. Accompanied by Syd's handwritten envelope; he purchased this with Vlack's collection of Hibernia coppers in March 2000.

Phillip W. Keller's 1724 Hibernia Halfpenny NGC Graded AU50



11. 1724 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Martin 4.67-K.2, W-13690. Rarity-5. NCG Graded About Uncirculated 50. A very pleasing example of the toughest date in the Hibernia series, and one that is difficult to find choice, especially without roughness or defects. This is the Phillip W. Keller example, and was Lot 3108 in the October, 2010 auction of his collection by Heritage, where it was catalogued as:

1724 1/2P Hibernia Halfpenny AU50 NGC. Martin 4.67-K.2,W-13690, R.5. This late die state example shows a prominent die break through the 17 in the date to the rim. Medium-brown patina enhances the surfaces of this lightly abraded specimen. The details are well-defined with trivial softness on the reverse high points.

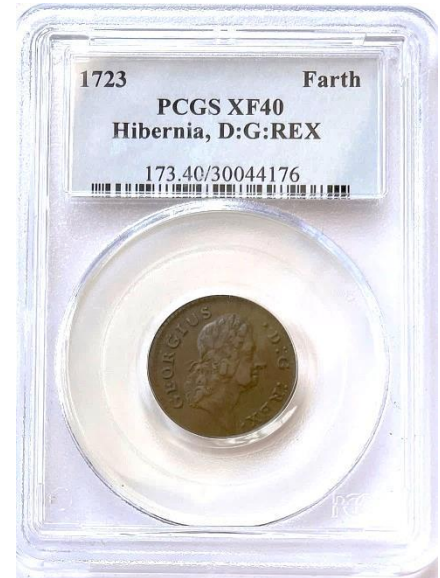
Purchased from Richard Picker (9/18/1964).

From The W. Philip Keller Collection of U.S. Colonials.

The Keller sale coins were notoriously undergraded, and it is likely this one would grade higher than the 50 slab it is in. Far nicer than Syd Martin's VF example of the variety, the only one we have seen that is in the same grade range is the Ted Craige coin, sold in 2013 (graded AU55). The 1724 date is the toughest to find for the Hibernia halfpenny series, and also seems the most difficult to find in nice grades. This coin is quite pleasing in hand, and would be impossible to upgrade for the variety, and very difficult to upgrade just as a 1724 type.....\$1,100

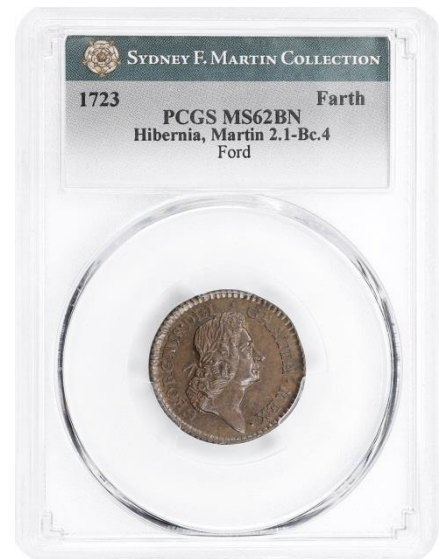
In the original NGC slab, and accompanied by the original printed Richard Picker envelope that Keller purchased and stored this coin in, with the type noted by Picker in ink and Vlack variety later penciled in by Keller.

The Popular 1723 D:G: REX Hibernia Farthing *PCGS Graded XF40*



12. 1723 Hibernia Farthing. Martin 1.1-Bc.1, W-12240. Rarity-5. D:G:REX obverse. PCGS graded EF-40. A well-struck circulated example, the legends all there and bold, the date sharp, and the design details as expected for the grade, the King's face with strong features, the hair showing just light wear, the seated figure on the reverse showing nearly all the detail in her dress, and with a bold branch and all the harp strings sharp in that instrument. Deep golden brown, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, though a glass will pick up a trace of light roughness, something fairly typical for this type. There is some light green patina hidden in the drapery folds on the reverse, and this could likely be removed by an expert (though of course that would mean breaking it out of the slab). Walter Breen called this a pattern or a prototype, but that was not correct, as there are far more known than one would expect for a pattern and they generally come in well-circulated condition (as is the case with the similar obverse used with a 1722 Rosa Americana halfpenny). It is, however, the only Hibernia farthing die with this legend, and was paired with two different reverse dies – one of them the exceedingly rare 1722 farthing which has the harp to the left, which DOES appear to be a pattern issue, since there are only a handful known and most exist in high grade (though a couple did certainly circulate, not unknown for pattern issues). It is likely then that the 1722 farthing, Martin 1.1-A, was a pattern which was rejected for some reason, and the thrifty William Wood reused the obverse die, pairing it with this regular-issue 1723 reverse, which itself was used in two other combinations. Regardless, it remains a popular naked-eye type coin, and a distinct *Redbook*-listed issue that gives some variety to the series other than collecting by just date and denomination. Priced at \$1,000 in EF in the current edition of the *Redbook*, we are pleased to offer this pleasing, PCGS-certified example at significantly less money.....\$700

A Lovely Choice Uncirculated 1723 Hibernia Farthing *ex John Ford and Syd Martin Collections*



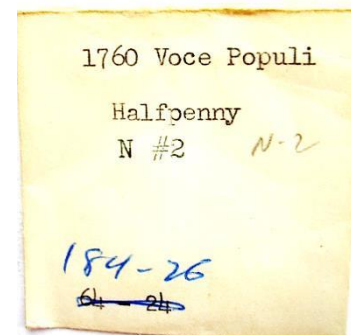
13. 1723 Wood's Hibernia Farthing. Martin 2.1-Bc.4, W-12350. Rarity-4. DEI. GRATIA. REX. PCGS Graded MS-62 BN, an accurate grade. A lovely example of this tiny denomination, a bit smaller in size than a British farthing, and likely the smallest copper coin in circulation in the American colonies, where many ended up after being rejected in Ireland. As expected for the grade, the coin is well struck, with all the design details razor sharp on either side, and the legends and date all bold. Nicely free of planchet flaws or any sort of marks or damage, this is a coin that could have just as easily been graded a point or two higher. Struck from the early state of this reverse die. The obverse die is distinct, with a large gap between DEI and GRATIA, which Walter Breen called “halfpenny layout.” Syd Martin noted this, and gave the die a separate number, and it is the only one with such a large space between the words; this obverse was paired with just one other reverse. There are a handful of the variety known in high grades, with a PCGS graded MS66 bringing \$3,450 in Stack’s September 2011 auction being the highest price realized. Just as sharp as the Martin plate coin for both the obverse and reverse dies. This example was from the legendary John J. Ford, Jr. collection, and was Lot 62 of the January 2005 auction of Ford’s colonials. Ford purchased in 1980 from Fred Werner. It was plated in that landmark auction, and described as “Choice Uncirculated. 61,0 grains. Both the obverse and reverse are pale brown in color with traces of mint color particularly around the obverse periphery. Fairly sharply struck in the centers. Planchet a little out of round, particularly at the upper right.” The coin sold in this 2005 auction for \$1,150 (in the good old days when the buyer’s fee was only 15%), and was in Syd Martin’s collection for nearly two decades. While not a rare die variety, it is in exceptional condition, with an impeccable provenance to the two greatest collections of the series ever formed – and, best of all, it’s available for less money than it brought way back in 2005! That is excellent value.....\$950

In the special PCGS holder for the Syd Martin collection, accompanied by Syd’s original handwritten envelope, and the original lot ticket from the 2005 John Ford auction.

A Nice 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny, Nelson 2 With a Richard Picker Envelope from 1960



9-23-60
 MAFAIR 1-0763
 NEW YORK
 ALBERTSON, L. I.
 P. O. Box 366
 edia
 Richard Picker



14. 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny. Nelson-2, W-13940, the so-called “1700” reverse. Rarity-3. Choice Very Fine, a well-struck and pleasing example of this popular variety, which is one that is often mistaken for the extremely rare “1700” reverse error, here because the 6 of the date is punched high, with the top of that numeral embedded in the exergue line and the harp above. Bold legends and date, and design details commensurate with the grade. A charming reverse, with the seated figure’s head intruding into the legend, separating the word into HIBE R NIA. Very attractive medium brown, the surfaces hard and glossy, with just the minimal marks from its time in circulation, but none that detract in the least from the nice eye appeal. The date on this reverse is 1760, though it appears to have been cut into the die as 1700, with a short diagonal dash added to the top to make it into a 6; we note that the size of the 0 of the fourth digit is slightly larger than the circular part of the 6 as the third digit, and it may just be that the 6 punch was defective, with the top missing or broken off, and this detail then had to be added to the die by hand. There is an extremely rare variant of this reverse that shows the date as 1700 (one was in the Ted Craige collection, now in the Syd Martin estate), so any sort of correcting of this reverse die was done after it had already struck a small number of pieces. Seasoned collectors will know that the variety can be found in higher grade, though often with dark, rough, or problematic surfaces – we prefer a choice color, as here. Accompanied by a Richard Picker envelope from 1960, with typed variety info on the front and pencil and ink annotations on both sides, a nice piece of numismatic history now over 60 years old! Picker was the first dealer to specialize in American colonials, and he really helped the series attract more collector attention – all of the luminaries writing in the first decades of *The Colonial Newsletter* would certainly have been doing business with him. Picker didn’t publish much or issue printed price lists, which means he is better known today for his fabulous personal collection of colonials which Stack’s sold after he passed away – that October, 1984 auction remains one of the essential references in every specialists library. An attractive, affordable example which will be hard to materially improve without spending double the price.....\$400

A Lovely AU Voce Populi Halfpenny *From the Ted Craige collection*



15. 1760 Voce Populi Halfpenny. Nelson 9, Zelinka 6-C, W-13280. About Uncirculated. This is the TED CRAIGE example of the variety, and appeared as Lot 6231 in the November, 2012 sale of his collection by Stack's-Bowers, where it was described as follows:

1760 Hibernia-Voce Populi Halfpenny. Zelinka 6-C, Nelson-9, W-13280. Rarity-3. AU-50. 99.2 grains. Choice lustrous chocolate brown with frosty, smooth fields. Fairly nicely struck for the variety, with nearly complete denticles surrounding the obverse. Some very minor rim bruises are seen around the reverse. Craige noted this was "Choice for Type Coin," a fair statement about any Voce Populi with luster. Very attractive, ideal for a collector who only needs one nice Voce.

A very choice specimen in all respects and we suspect it would slab at a slightly higher grade level than given in the Craige auction if resubmitted today. There are no major marks from circulation and ample die finishing lines are visible in the obverse fields attesting to its high grade. The surfaces are hard and very choice, without the roughness that is often found on this type (we have seen far less attractive Voce's slabbed as AU55 and even 58). The Voce Populi issues were not saved in great numbers by collectors of the time, and the average grade of extant specimens today shows that they circulated for quite some time. This lovely example, with a great provenance, and one that would be virtually impossible to upgrade even slightly. We note that Anton's AU58 brought \$2,880 in the Stack's Bowers 2020 C4 auction and shows the exact same details as this coin. We think this the better buy at just.....\$1,250

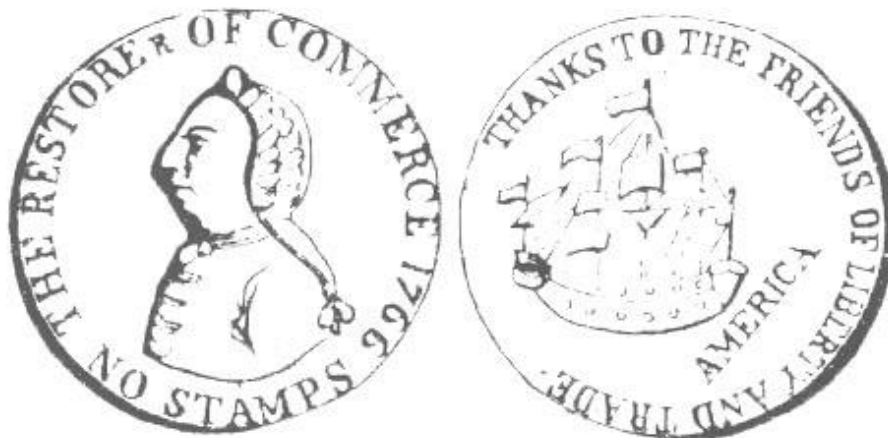
Accompanied by the original lot ticket from the Ted Craige 2012 auction, as well as Craige's original handwritten envelope.



An Affordable, Cleanly Circulated Pitt Halfpenny *With Attractive Color and Surfaces*



16. 1766 Pitt Halfpenny. Betts 519, W-8350. Very Fine, well struck save for the extreme right edge of the reverse, an area that is often seen weak on this type; this causes a loss of the legend there, the remainder of the letters on either side mostly strong. The bust of Pitt and the ship are both sharp and show solid VF design detail. Nice medium brown, the surfaces hard and pleasing to the eye. A fascinating issue, one that is clearly important to the American colonial collector as the design not only names America on the reverse, it also refers directly to the infamous Stamp Act which both propelled Pitt into prominence and, a decade later, the American colonies into revolution. Despite being struck as medalets, the vast majority of known specimens are circulated, showing that while collectors managed to save a few, most saw circulation as halfpence, likely both in England and North America where their lighter weight would have been less noticeable, considering that most of the copper in circulation in the colonies at this time would have been counterfeit British and Irish coinage. Collectors of this historic issue are often faced with just two choices: paying a lot of money for an AU or Uncirculated specimen (such as the admittedly gorgeous MS65 sold in the Stacks C4 sale last year, which realized \$15,600, or Syd Martin's sharper piece that was graded MS64 and brought \$21,600 in August 2022) or finding a more affordable circulated one that is rough or damaged. This is the rare exception that is cleanly circulated, not damaged, quite pleasing in both color and overall eye appeal, yet still quite affordable.....\$850



A Coin...A Counterstamp...A Communion Token?

Illustrated in The Colonial Newsletter, 2012



17. 1773 Virginia Halfpenny. Newman 27-J, W-1585. Period After GEORGIVS, 7 Harp Strings. Rarity-2 as a variety, Rarity-7 with obverse counterstamped R.P.S. About Uncirculated, a lovely coin with just light wear at the highpoints of either side, and exceptionally nice color and surface quality. While an AU Virginia is nothing too special, even one without the heavy spotting seen on many of the higher-grade examples from the famous Cohen Hoard, this coin is made far more special by the initials R.P.S. counterstamped at the center obverse. This counterstamp was done with a logotype punch, not individual letters, and is not found on any coin other than Virginia coppers. In the December 2012 issue of *The Colonial Newsletter* (now available for free on the Newman Numismatic Portal), Roger Moore and Dennis Wierzbba illustrate 9 examples (including this, which is Illustration F on Plate 2), and note the existence of a couple more that they were not able to have photographed. With a dozen or so known to the authors, the existence of a few more pieces is certain, so there are perhaps 15 or so examples of this counterstamp known. All examples seen are in high grade (EF at the minimum), and all have the R.P.S. counterstamp centered on the obverse, punched vertically (a few show more than one punch, and one has the counterstamp rotated so that the R is at the bottom of the coin and the S at the top). There was clearly some care given to the placement of the counterstamp, and that care may have gone into the selection of the host coins as well, as all 9 examples illustrated in the CNL article are high grade, with clean, smooth surfaces, including one that was later holed. The authors discount the possibility of this being a merchant or tradesman's counterstamp and instead propose that these were actually done for use as communion tokens, possibly by the Reformed Presbyterian Synod – R.P.S. – of Pennsylvania. Some of the churches that splintered from that group were in an area that later became West Virginia, and the printed history of those churches mention the use of communion tokens but does not describe them, which certainly adds credence to the theory. Communion tokens were in wide use at the time, and several types are known for North America, the most famous being the Albany Church Pennies. The Virginia halfpennies with the R.P.S. countermark are known on just four varieties – Newman 23-Q, 25-M, 26-Y, and 27-J. The authors also suggest the counterstamps were applied in the 1775-1810 period, on coins pulled from circulation, with the light wear on known specimens from their gentle use within the church. A fascinating and rare issue, we note none were in the Syd Martin collection of Virginia halfpennies.....\$900

A Very Sharp 1785 Blunt Rays Nova Constellatio



18. 1785 Nova Constellatio Copper. Crosby 1-B, W-1880. Rarity-4. CONSTELATIO, Blunt Rays. Extremely Fine. A boldly struck example of this rare and popular type coin. The legends and date are bold on either side, and the simple design detail is razor sharp – the all-seeing eye at the center of the obverse showing clear delineation between the lids, and each of the stars and rays strong, while every leaf on the reverse wreath is sharp, save for those obscured by the large cud at the base, which is present on most examples of the variety, as is the light die spalling at the center of this side. The large script US at the center is also strong, this detail usually seen weak. Attractive medium brown, with some mottled reddish hues, the surfaces hard to the eye, though a glass will pick up the typical light roughness. No marks or damage from its brief time in circulation, and very pleasing as such. This unusual blunt ray obverse was used with both 1783 and 1785-dated reverses, and is the only obverse die used for both years. It's likely that it was the last die made in 1783 (which is why Crosby calls it obverse 3 for that year), and as it remained in good condition, was saved until more coins were ordered. A distinct type coin in the series, and one that gets quite expensive just a grade higher than this. Syd Martin's lovely AU brought \$4,560 in November 2023, the same price that a similarly-graded one brought in a Heritage auction three months earlier. There are a couple truly amazing examples out there, including the Newman and Partrick coins, which were almost certainly saved by contemporary British collectors, literally as they were being struck. The 1785 Nova Constellatio was noted and illustrated with an engraving in the October 1786 issue of *The Gentlemen's Magazine*, a popular journal for those of an historical and literary bent, and the London coin dealers would have certainly stocked them in inventory for those gentleman collectors – and gentlewomen too, as the indomitable Miss Sarah Sophia Banks also had four of them in her collection (though she lacked this type, the 1785 blunt ray). The Nova Constellatio series has seen prices soar in recent years, most notably due to Q. David Bowers's book that examined these, along with the Vermont coppers and other issues, and even lower grade and damaged specimens have brought multiples of what they fetched just a few years earlier. This pleasing, well-struck example, with all the detail of an AU coin, is one that you will likely not be able to replace anywhere near our price of only.....\$1,000

**THE EXTREMELY RARE
1786 NOVA CONSTELLATIO COPPER**
OK, it's not all that pretty – but it is darned rare!



19. 1786 Nova Constellatio Copper. Crosby 1-A, W-1940. Rarity-6. Small Date. PCGS Graded AG3 Detail, significantly undergraded in our view, as the central details are almost always found weak on this issue, and grading by the peripheral legends would argue for a grade closer to the VG level overall – and it is that peripheral detail you want strong! On the obverse, CONSTELLATIO is bold at the top of the obverse, NOVA weaker but visible, the first letter of that word quite faint. The all-seeing eye at the center is not visible, the stars and rays at the top fairly strong, the ones below the eye ranging from visible, to faint, to gone. The reverse has a similar strike, with the US at the center gone (this detail almost never seen), but with stronger peripheries. LIBERTAS is bold at the left, ET is weak at the top, while JUSTITIA is weak at the first couple letters, stronger for the rest. The all-important date here is bold, save for the first digit which is mostly lost to a small planchet flaw there – but the 786 is sharp, leaving no question as to what the coin is. Medium brown, the surfaces hard enough despite light planchet flaws, including one at the lower left obverse rim that extends into a planchet crack below the C of CONSTELLATIO towards the center of the coin – these flaws in the planchet prior to it being struck, and adding a bit of crude charm to the coin. There are scattered light marks from circulation, as would be expected at this grade level, and some light encrustation at the upper right reverse, which may be removable by someone skilled in such matters. There is a large “X” scratched across the center reverse – a contemporary condemnation of the coin as a counterfeit, though it likely did not stop it from being used in commerce, as the 1786 pieces were in the same weight range as the 1783 and 1785 coins they imitated, about equal to the average weight of counterfeit British and Irish halfpence that were circulating in the American colonies and states. The 1786 is a legendary rarity in the colonial series, though not the extreme rarity it was once thought to be, falling from R-7 to solid R-6 as some lower-grade pieces have been found, very rarely cherry-picked when the date was weak and sellers didn’t bother to attribute. How many 1786 issues were made is, of course, unknown – but the mintage was not large, with perhaps a 1500 or so struck (a 2% survival rate would give 30 known examples today). Given

the well-worn condition of most examples, it is clear that those coins circulated extensively, well into the era of state coppers and, probably even later. This last part is a bit surprising, as the Nova Constellatio series lost favor due to their light weight, and many state coiners purchased them in bulk for use as planchets for their own coinage – yet it is striking that no 1786 Nova Constellatio is known as a host coin to any state coinage issue. Were they not in circulation at the time that Machin's Mills was buying up coppers that did not circulate for use as host coins, especially for Vermont and New Jersey coppers? Or were they in circulation in an area that didn't reject them in commerce and lead to them being bought up at a discount by state coiners? Mysteries like this may never be solved, but the questions are still worth asking.

Where the 1786 Nova Constellatio was made is also uncertain. While these usually look quite crude this is actually due to the planchet quality, post-strike damage and overall levels of wear – the actual die work on it is at least equal to the 1783 Crosby 1-A variety, and far nicer than the 12-star counterfeit which is truly crude. This cataloguer wrote an article on the counterfeit Nova Constellatio coppers which appeared in the Summer 2019 issue of *The C4 Newsletter* (Vol. 27, No. 2) which showed some letter punch similarities with the 1783 Crosby 1-A, as well as a shared use of the Small US reverse design, which suggests they could have been made in the same venue, their maker seeing 1783 and 1785-dated coins and, assuming it was an ongoing series, dated his die 1786, perhaps the year they were actually made. But there is also a great difference in planchet quality (and weight range) between these two varieties, which could just as easily argue against them being made by the same person, even if their date of manufacture was separated by a year or two. Several recent auction catalogues had touted the possibility that these were made at Machin's Mills – with zero proof. Given that Machin's were buying quantities of Nova Constellatios to overstrike, it is doubtful that they would strike an example themselves! There is no punch or die linkage to any coin known to have been minted at Machin's Mills, a facility with a penchant for muling dies, especially as the Coppers Panic began, another nail in the coffin for that theory.

What is known is that few survive, and the ones that do are mostly in abominable condition, with almost none receiving a straight grade due to the damage and surface issues that plague this variety. There are a couple nice ones out there, but even those aren't perfect. The Garrett-Partrick coin is slabbed XF40 and fully deserving of that grade, the planchet with myriad striations and a touch of verdigris, but still a bargain when it brought \$45,600 in the January 2021 offering of the Partrick collection. Eric Newman's was graded VF20 but rather banged up and rough, bringing \$21,150 in the November 2014 Heritage sale of his collection. Another VF was in the collection of songwriter Chris Able, sold by Heritage in August 2017 – it might have been the third finest known, save for a hole at the top, (and may well be "repaired" at some point in the future, so collectors should acquaint themselves with what the piece looks like before buying a VF without any previous provenance). While the Garrett collection contained the finest known, it also had a solid Fine (ex Newcomer), as did the Norweb collection. That's it for middle-and-higher graded coins that have appeared at auction! The rest of the 20 or so known coins grade from Poor to VG, almost always with some sort of damage or planchet issue (though Dittmer's AG3 is probably the cleanest, well-worn specimen we have seen, bringing \$8,400 in Heritage's May 2022 auction). Collector Rod Widok has been working on a census of all known examples of the 1786 Nova Constellatio, and his research will be published in a future issue of *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*.

A legendary rarity in the colonial series, and one that the collector can simply not be too picky about grade. This one, with an especially sharp date, is only.....\$5,000

A Nice 1640 Countermarked French Colonies Douzain



20. 1640 countermark on a 1594-Z [Grenoble Mint] Henri IV Douzain du Dauphine, 2nd type, Ciani 1564, Duplessy 1257, Sombart 4442. Very Fine, nicely struck, the legends mostly full, sharp save an area at the left obverse where the planchet was clipped. Nice design detail, showing most of the dolphins in the obverse shield (one obscured by the countermark there) and in the fields formed by the reverse cross. Medium silver gray, clean and nice eye appeal. This type was only struck at this mint, and only from 1593-7 – but despite this limited output the host coins are relatively available today; still, it is a distinct type within the series, and popular as such. While the Paris Mint initially handled the countermarking of old billon douzains, it is likely that most (or even all) of the French mints in operation in 1640 did some of the work as well, as there were an immense number of old coins to be countermarked. Produced under the Edict of June, 1640, which authorized the countermark to be applied to billon issues, they were made legal tender at a value of 15 Deniers, which was higher than the value of the billon alloy. Breen notes that these were nicknamed “gray coin,” “French sole mark,” “sou mark” and “black dogge.” These were later made legal tender in French Canada, by Edict of November 24, 1672, but at an even further inflated value of 20 Deniers. While the countermarks were supposed to be applied only to old French billon issues, it is unsurprising that a few similar-appearing billon coins of the era would be caught up and countermarked; this includes two Papal States issues (from Avignon and Carpentras), coins from Brabant in the Spanish Netherlands, billon issues from the semi-autonomous region of Dombes; and even a couple of British silver groats that were mistakenly countermarked with the fleur-de-lys stamp. While the later issues of Henri III and IV make up the majority of known survivors with this countermark, these can be collected by date and mintmark for the host coin, something very popular with American collectors! This is only.....\$175

Robert Vlack lists fifteen different types of coins used as host planchets for this issue, the earliest being the 1380-1422 blanc guenars of Charles VI. A few other coinage types have since been added to that list, including the three listed as unreported (all have all been located, though all are rare). Also finally found were countermarks on Louis XIII coinage which Walter Breen listed as the major undertype, but which was completely unknown to Vlack. Several collectors are pursuing these issues not only by the major undertype, but also by date, mintmark and even variety within the various undertypes, especially those of Henry II, Henry III, Charles X and Henry IV which have a wide range of dates and mintmarks used as host coins.

**A Lovely 1695 French Colonies Recoined Sol Struck over a 1555 douzain
– the host coin MUCH larger than the overstrike
(and you thought only American Colonials had weird things going on!)**



21. 1695-A [Paris Mint] Recoined Billon Sol or Quinzain aux huit L. struck over a 1555-dated Douzain. Vlack-4b, Breen-276, Gadoury-92, Duplessy-1581A. Very Fine or slightly better in terms of strike and wear, the overstrike from dies that were significantly smaller than the host coin, allowing for nearly full legends of the 1555-dated host to be bold around the periphery, including the date of the original coin which is at the lower left reverse on the photo above, this host coin having been in circulation for 140 years before being overstruck by the new dies! Recoining old billon sols was more cost-effective than melting them down, and the recoinage elevated the value of worn-out billon coins from the 12 deniers of a douzain to the 15 deniers of a sol. While this increase of 25% in value was literally the creation of free money for the French Crown, much of it used to pay war expenses in North America and was thus at least partially justified. All French mints struck recoinage sols at least early on in the 1692-5 era, but by 1700 only a couple were still striking the design, and resorting to using new planchets since the supply of old billon had dried up. The new Recoinage Sols were coined under Louis XIV, the host coin here from the coinage of his grandfather who had come to the throne after a war of succession and a half-hearted conversion to Catholicism in order to gain legitimacy. That claim did not convince all of France, and many considered him to be a closet Protestant, and thus a usurper to the throne. There were repeated attempts on his life, the last one being successful in 1610. Great color, with nearly full silvering, and quite dramatic in appearance with so much of the host coin still intact; a small planchet edge crack at the right obverse was likely on the original host coin, not caused by the overstrike. If you only want a single example of this type, then why not get one which has this much “wow” factor going for it? \$300

From the Syd Martin collection, in his original handwritten envelope.

While not explicitly or solely intended for North American circulation, a very large number did find their way over to North America. In his article “Money of the 14th Colony: Nova Scotia (1711-1783),” which appeared in the December, 2003 issue of The Colonial Newsletter, Philip Mossman notes that archaeological excavation at Louisbourg revealed some 88 different examples of the 1692-1705 Sols of 15 Deniers. Vlack states that another Louisbourg dig found nearly 38% of the 177 billon coins (or 67 pieces) found were of the Recoinage Sol type, showing their importance to the colonial North American economy at the time.

A HIGHER GRADE 1709-AA 30 DENIERS

The rarest date/mintmark combination



22. 1709-AA French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-7, Breen 209. Rarity-6. PCGS graded AU Details. A boldly struck example, with the legends, date, mintmark and all the design details razor sharp, save for the tops of a few letters that are lost to an edge flaw on the planchet at the lower right obverse/upper right reverse which, of course, was in the planchet prior to striking. Dark pewter with much of the original silvering remaining on both sides, and just the lightest roughness at the center reverse. This is the sub-variety with a stop after LVD on the obverse, and has a prominent diebreak through the 0 of the date, across the pomegranate *different* to the L, and another break from the lower left rim through the R and to the E of REX. A rare date/mintmark combination, and rarer still in higher states of preservation. The only comparably graded one we recall seeing in recent years was the Ted Craige coin, also graded AU details due to some reverse scratches – that coin had more silvering, and a different diebreak at the base of the obverse, and brought just under \$1,300 back in March 2013. Struck at only two mints, Lyon and Metz, from 1709-1713 only. and in just two denominations of 15 and 30 deniers, this was the first billon issue struck specifically for France's North American colonies. They were over-valued in terms of metal content, only slightly heavier than the Recoined Sols which were valued at 15 deniers, half the value of the new coin. This was purposely done, to insure that most stayed in North America and other French colonies, since no French merchant would accept them back at that valuation. Bob Vlack estimates that this coinage stayed in circulation for at least a century, and given the average grade of most survivors today this is not unreasonable; Vlack notes some of the fluctuations in valuation of this coin, which soared to 36 deniers at the height of the Mississippi Bubble speculations in 1720 – at this valuations, much of the original mintage likely returned to France for melting. By the time the Sous Marques billon coinage started in 1738 these earlier 30 deniers had fallen to just 18 deniers. Listed in both the Whitman *Encyclopedia* and the *Redbook*, this is a French Colonies type that every colonial collection should include! This rare date and mintmark is offered at a lot less money than recent auction records for comparable coins, just.....\$350

From the Syd Martin collection, in the special PCGS holder with his name, and accompanied by Syd's original handwritten envelope.

1721-H Copper 9 Deniers with Nice Color



23. 1721-H Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.7-B.14, W-11830. Rarity-3. Very Fine. An attractive example of this copper issue, the first reasonably successful coinage in that metal specifically for the French North American colonies (the 1717-Q issues could not be deemed a success in any way, accounting for their extreme rarity today); it is one of just three coinage types covered in Syd Martin's 2015 work on French Colonies coinages, and is indisputably part of the North American colonial series. Generally well struck, the legends are full, though the tops of some letters on the obverse are off the planchet as centered; the NC of FRANCOISES are a bit weaker than the rest but all there, the date and H mintmark below is bold. Pleasing lighter brown, with some minor roughness that is typical for the issue, and the expected light marks from circulation. The 9 Deniers were roughly the same size as the Half Sol coinage struck under John Law just a year previously, which was equal in value to just 6 Deniers. This meant the 1721-2 9 Deniers issue was overvalued by 50% in relation to French coinage, which made Canadians reluctant to accept the coin. We know that these arrived in North America by May, 1723 when they were made legal tender in what is now Biloxi, Mississippi, where they were used to pay troops and in company stores. But, because of their overvaluation, they circulated at a discount, and just a year later the Crown officially lowered their value to a more realistic 6 Deniers. At this level they seem to have been embraced by the populace (though this may have something to do with the fact that the penalty for not taking them at this value involved whipping and branding). Struck in just two years, 1721 and 1722, and at just two mints for the first year (Rouen and La Rochelle) and just La Rochelle mint the following year, this is a very short type set to collect, even with the addition of this 1722/1 overdate. Syd Martin detailed almost 90 different die varieties, which gives the more serious collector a way to go deep into a series where very rare varieties trade at just a small premium over type coin value! Very few copper 9 Deniers seem to have been saved by contemporary collectors, which is reflected in pricing for the type in the Whitman *Encyclopedia*: while a reasonable \$175 in Fine, the valuation jumps nearly fivefold to \$1,000 in VF! This is a pleasing mid-grade example, with nice color and good eye appeal for an issue that is almost never seen choice. Though rated at just an R-3, we note only 3 appearances of the variety in the Stack's Bowers archives. This is just.....\$275

A John Law Sol from the Perpignan Mint – *Struck in brass*



24. 1722-34-Q [Perpignan Mint] John Law Copper Sol. Fine or so in terms of wear. Most likely a 1722-3 issue, though the date cannot be made out for certain, though the Q mintmark at the base of the reverse is visible. Erratically struck, as the issues from this mint generally are, the obverse with nearly full legends, the reverse with over half, the obverse bust of the young king bold, the reverse weaker at the left side of the shield. Nice brassy light brown, the planchet most likely made from the low-quality copper that the Perpignan mint had on hand after striking the failed 1717-Q 6 and 12 Deniers pieces, which were noted for their poor quality. Aside from the brassy alloy, there are several flaws in the planchet, notably at the top obverse and to the right of the crown, which were in the blank planchet, and the planchet itself is out of round due to either a defective planchet cutter or cutting too close to multiple other planchets. The Perpignan mint began striking copper issues in 1722 – after Law was out of power. It struck the sol denomination from 1722-1726, then in 1728 and 1729 (this date not listed in Gadoury, and a single example now known), and once again a half decade later in 1734. Perpignan was the only mint to coin these copper types after 1723; they may have been allowed to do so to use up the problematic copper on hand, knowing that the mint's location in the extreme south of France, close to the border with Spain would mean that the coins would only circulate locally, well away from Paris. The John Law coppers are a fascinating series, backed by the supposed profits from the Mississippi lands – and which led to one of the first stock-market runs with shares in the company spiraling out of control, and crashing nearly as quickly, bankrupting many people and very nearly taking down the French Crown as well. The copper series has three denominations – liard, half sol, and sol – with dates from 1722-1734, with coins struck at a number of mints. There were also silver and gold coins issued, all of which gives a wide diversity of types, dates and mints to collect, something often lacking in the British colonial series. The Perpignan pieces are seldom found choice, but do come on an array of charmingly crude planchet shapes and sizes. While this one has no date, it is attractive for a circulated issue, in a brassy alloy, and was appreciated for what it was by the late Syd Martin. It's also the cheapest well-detailed example of a large John Law copper sol you are likely to find from this mint! Only.....\$40

In Syd Martin's original handwritten envelope, where he called this brass, but only graded it Good – from a standpoint of wear and sharpness, we think our grade more fair.

A Nice PCGS MS62 1740-B French Colonies Sous Marques with Vibrant Luster



25. 1740-B [Rouen Mint] French Colonies Sous Marques, Vlack 51. Rarity-3. PCGS Graded MS62. A lovely representative example of this type, or the variety in particular. Well struck, the legends, date, mintmark and *différents* (the symbols for the engraver and mint master) are all bold around the peripheries. The central designs are full, a shade less sharp than the legends, and the whole coin is a lustrous silver that has whispers of light golden toning. There is a thin pair of striations running through the crown on the obverse, which were in the planchet prior to striking, and no marks or damage from actual circulation, and the piece has lovely eye appeal. To this cataloguer's mind – and he's formed two collections of the French Colonies coinages that each had over 800 pieces! – the billon Sous Marques offers so much collecting enjoyment. They are listed in the Redbook, meaning collector interest will always be there. There is a huge range of dates and mintmarks – something lacking on colonial British and early American coinage. Bob Vlack's reference work, published through C4, is pretty thorough, yet there are still some unlisted varieties to be found – always a bonus for a collector – and extremely rare die varieties are available for little more than type coin money, something the collector on a budget should really appreciate. While struck in billon, a low grade silver, they are the only really affordable alternative to Massachusetts silver coins for those who want something other than copper in their colonial collection. Choice specimens can also be found for many date-and-mint combinations (though others exist only in well-circulated conditions), which strongly suggests that they were avidly collected at their time of issue, enough so that they remain quite affordable today. Syd Martin's example, also graded MS62 was very weak, with numerous marks and somewhat splotchy toning brought \$336 last year, this one is much more visually attractive. The series would seem a natural fit for anyone who grew up collecting "penny boards," filling in dates and mintmarks – but also offers the ability to have a deeper dive and go into legend and punctuation variations (which the Vlack book details), or crazier still, into the uncharted territory of individual die varieties. As choice examples of state coinages drift into the high-four and five-figure ranges (and even six-figures for rare varieties), we expect more collector attention on the French Colonies issues which can often be found choice, and still in the low three-figures (and under Redbook pricing too!).....\$400



No lot ticket from the Ford sale present, though the Ford provenance is noted on the slab itself.

**A Pleasing Condition Census 1785 Connecticut, Miller 3.1-L
From New Netherland's famous 60th Sale, likely ex Virgil Brand**



27. 1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.1-L, W-2325. High Rarity-4. Choice Very Fine. A well-struck and pleasing example of a very scarce variety, which we think is more difficult to find than the 3.2-L, though both carry the same rarity rating. The legends are full on either side, the individual letters strong, the TO of AUCTORI just a shade weaker than the rest. The date is bold, fully on the planchet, and with a complete row of denticles beneath. Excellent design detail, the obverse face bold, showing all the detail in the eyes and lips, the hair a bit flat – if this detail was just marginally sharper the coin would have merited a full EF grade. The reverse figure has strong detail in the branch, and the globe she sits upon shows all the lines within. Pleasing light chocolate brown, the surfaces mostly hard and with a good amount of gloss. Specialists know that the 1785-dated Connecticut coppers often come plagued with planchet flaws – it was the first year of coinage, and the mint literally learned as they went along. This specimen has two small flaws, both at the edge, which touch no design or legend, and is nicely free of the often-disfiguring flaws on the actual surfaces of either side. No real marks or damage from circulation save for a tiny rim tick at the lower obverse. This example is from the famous 60th sale of New Netherlands Coin Company, a sale that bibliophile John Adams rates an A+ for its outstanding colonial coins, many of which came through the collections of F. C. C. Boyd, Virgil Brand, and others. This example was in Lot 320, paired with a Miller 3.3-F.3 which was from the Dr. Hall collection, via the Brand holdings, and as the auction firm wouldn't mix coins from different consignors in a single lot, this example was also likely a Brand coin. There are a few nice examples out there, including the Newman coin which was called AU when it sold in 2014 for just shy of \$10,000 and then slabbed (with the provenance lost) as a full Uncirculated when it appeared in Heritage's April 2018 sale and again in the 2019 C4 sale – oddly bringing 1/3 the price as an Unc than it did as an AU! The Ford coin was technically AU, but on a very flawed planchet, and was downgraded to Choice EF when it appeared in the Partrick sale, and the Robert Martin coin was a flawed EF. This Choice VF is a Condition Census level example, free of the surface flaws of the Martin and Ford coins, and with choice color and surfaces, and it has a provenance back to one of the legendary sales of Connecticut coppers. It is also priced right at just.....\$800

Accompanied by a typed envelope giving the purchase information of the piece from the New Netherlands auction (and we can supply an original example of the auction catalogue if you don't have it). The typed envelope shows this to be ex Phillip W. Keller collection.

Neil Rothschild's 1785 Miller 3.3-F.3 From the Henry C. Miller Collection?



28. 785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.3-F.3, W-2335. Rarity-4. Bust Right. Very Fine, though last sold as a Choice Fine, the coin is much nicer than that grade level, and the strength of detail on the reverse and glossy surfaces argue for a Choice VF grade. When offered as part of the collection of the late Neil Rothschild this was catalogued as: “Choice glossy light to medium brown with darker steel brown toning on the highpoints. Smooth and quite nice for the grade, just moderately worn without any notable defects. Later die state with rust and minor swelling around the legends. The bottom of the date is flowing into the rim below but it remains easily readable,” which is completely accurate. It was noted in that sale as coming from dealer Anthony Terranova, whose eye for quality is well-known, and earlier in the 2000 C4 convention sale. Neil’s handwritten envelope, which accompanies this coin, is noted “ex Miller Sale, Clarence Smith.” The Miller sale provenance was not noted in either the 2000 C4 sale or the auction of Neil’s coins, and may have been something found by Robert Martin, who was both a good friend (and a competitor for good coins) with Neil. Martin’s annotated notebooks on Connecticut coppers does not contain any listing of the variety with a provenance to the Miller sale, save for the listing in the 1920 auction of Miller’s collection where the variety is offered in Lot 1806, ungraded and undescribed. While Robert and Neil are both gone, it may be a nice challenge for the next owner of this piece to see if they can find where the Miller provenance comes in. There are a few nicer examples out there, including the primary Syd Martin coin which was a bold EF, but darker and with some planchet flaws and light scratches, and Robert Martin’s Choice AU, which brought \$4,560 in the weakest market for Connecticut coppers in the last 20 years. While this coin won’t rival those pieces, it is a nice example with lovely color, and far better surface quality than normally found on the 1785 Connecticut coppers which generally come with planchet flaws – the coiners were literally learning on the job, and the quality of their coinage improved in 1786 and 1787, as they gained experience in smelting and rolling copper. A coin that would be difficult to improve without moving well into four figures!.....\$650

In Neil Rothschild’s handwritten envelope noting the Miller sale provenance, and with the original lot ticket from the sale of his collection in 2021.

A Pleasing Circulated 1785 Miller 7.1-D *The Rarer Bust Left Type*



29. 1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 7.1-D, W-2440. Rarity-4+. Bust Left. Choice Very Good, a well-used coin that managed to escape major damage during its usage, quite unusual for the type. The legends are full on either side, while just the tops of some of the date numerals can be seen on the reverse. This is a naked-eye type coin, one of just four varieties in the 1785 series to feature a mailed bust facing left, the style that was adopted for most of the coinage of 1786 and into the early 1787 issues, and represent the first usage of Abel Buell's complex hub technology. There are three varieties without punctuation in the legend, each of which seems to have experienced early and dramatic die failure (Miller 7.1-D, 7.2-D and 7.3-D, the latter unlisted in the original Miller reference), and one variety that has colons in the legend (Miller 8-D). These generally come on rough and/or flawed planchet stock. Struck from the typical late die state of this obverse, showing clear and heavy die failure in the fields on either side of the bust – the dies either improperly hardened, or made from steel that was not of high enough quality to withstand the force of striking coins (a less-strong steel would have taken the hub image better, but at the cost of breaking earlier). Medium brown, the obverse smooth and clean, the reverse with a bit of two-tone effect with darker fields and lighter devices. A few trivial marks from circulation, none of which catch the eye. There are a handful of truly nice examples of this variety – and when they appear, they bring very strong money, such as Syd Martin's truly gorgeous EF from the Mills collection which brought \$6,600 at auction two years ago. You would be hard-pressed to find an example of this variety or the entire Mailed Bust Left type with equally clean surfaces and eye appeal, especially in this grade level. A coin like this would have received multiple orders 20 years ago at \$500+ - in the current weaker market for CT coppers, it's priced at half that level, This is something we don't expect to continue as more collectors discover this series (especially after the publication of Randy Clark's excellent new reference book), and prices in the various Syd Martin offerings have shown marked improvement over where they were just a couple years ago. A pleasing, affordable example of a major type coin in the series, available at just.....\$250

A SHARP 1786 MILLER 5.8-H.2

Ex Ted Craige Collection



30. 1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.8-H.2, W-2625. High Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. Very Fine, quite well struck overall, with just a hit of weakness at Miss Liberty's neck on the reverse. The legends are full, though the piece is slightly off-center towards 1:00, pushing the tops of CONNE and LIB off the planchet, as well as the bottom of the date. The obverse bust is bold, showing full mailing, strong hair detail, and even a fully outlined eye, while the branch, shield, and globe on the reverse are especially strong. Darker brown fields with lighter legends and devices give a nice two-tone look to the coin. Scattered microscopic roughness was in the planchet prior to being struck, and does not detract – especially as there are no marks or damage from circulation save a tiny nick under the N of INDE. This is from the TED CRAIGE collection, and comes with his original handwritten envelope, with a note on the back that reads “checked by R.P.’s Conn expert, says his only slightly better.” R.P is of course dealer Richard Picker, and his expert was likely Ned Barnsley, though one wonders what he would have been checking, as Craige was also an expert in the series! Craige passed away just as he was about to start dealing in colonials fulltime, having sold his prized collection of CT coppers to Q. David Bowers, who used those and a couple other collections he purchased intact to form the collection sold in the EAC ’75 auction, keeping the best example of each variety and selling the duplicates on his firms Rare Coin Reviews for many years. This is not the coin that was in the EAC ’75 sale, and remained in Craige’s inventory, not sold until nearly forty years after he passed away, appearing in Stack’s Bowers January 2013 auction, where this was Lot 11134, there graded VF20. The cataloguer of that coin asked who the expert was, and where this comparison coin was located – if it was Barnsley, then the coin is now in the ANS, as part of the Colonial Newsletter Foundation’s collection. A coin that would be difficult to markedly improve without spending a lot more money – Syd Martin’s Choice AU was ex Hall and brought \$4,800, while the AU/Unc Ford coin hammered at \$8.350 back in 2005! This won’t compete with either of those, of course, but it is a well-detailed, attractive example of a very scarce variety, and available at a small fraction of those prices, just.....\$400

1786 MILLER 5.11-R, EX STICKNEY-RYDER- BOYD-FORD-PERKINS-PARTRICK- ROTHSCHILD COLLECTIONS



31. 1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.11-R, W-2660. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. Very Fine, in an NGC slab as VF20, though a 30 grade would be more appropriate for this piece. A lovely example, on a large planchet that allows for full legends on both sides, as well as a full date. Sharply struck, with strong design details on either side, including full mailing and most of the facial features on the obverse, and a sharp branch, drapery and shield on the reverse. The hair on the obverse and globe on the reverse are weaker than the rest, but this is as struck, not from wear. Medium olive brown, a couple small striae on the obverse and a thin but longer one at the center reverse, all these in the planchet prior to striking. A well-traveled specimen, being the frontline example of the variety in many famous collections for the last 125 years. This piece first appeared in the Henry Chapman sale of the Matthew Adams Stickney collection, sold in June 1907, where it was described as: “1786 Cent. Bust 1. Crosby No. 5, but with the same reverse as last. Unlisted ! Very good. Extremely rare.” It brought \$2.75 in that auction, a strong price for a Connecticut at the time – and an amount that would have purchased any of six or seven different pieces of Massachusetts silver in the same auction. Stickney is known for having an eye for quality coins, and when his name is in a provenance chain, it will be for one of the finest examples of the variety known. Purchased at that sale by Hillyer Ryder, whose collection was sold intact to F.C.C. Boyd, and then sold intact again to John J. Ford, Jr. When Ford finally let some duplicates go, this coin appeared in the Stack’s June 1994 offering of the “Boyd-Ryder” holdings, appearing as Lot 47 where it was plated, and described by Michael Hodder as follows:

1786 M.5.11-R. MBL. High R-6 (revised). Very Fine and nearly choice. High Condition Census: finer than the Hessberg coin and all but one of the other 12 we have seen (the finest being a Choice Unc.). 123.1 gns. The Stickney sale coin. Good olive brown color fairly even across both

sides. Some surface striations, those on the obverse a bit distracting. Perfectly centered, decently struck, perfect die states.

From Henry Chapman's sale of the Matthew Adams Stickney Collection, June 25, 1907, lot US, where it sold for \$2.85; Ryder's ticket accompanies this lot.

Purchased at that sale by George Perkins for \$1,210, this was the frontline coin in his collection, appearing as Lot 248 in the Stack's January 2000 sale of his collection where it was described as:

1786 M. 5.11-R. Rarity-6-1-. Mailed Bust Left. Very Fine, nearly Choice. 123.1 grains. Good, olive and brown color nearly uniform on both sides. Surfaces appear smooth and hard in most places, disturbed on the obverse in the left field and on the effigy's head by light and shallow flaws. Reverse with one linear flaw manning from Liberty's waist left into the right field. High Condition Census for this very scarce variety, finer than the Hessberg coin and all but one of the other 12 we have seen. George wrote in his notes on this coin "Actually, the Hessberg coin seems, arguably, a bit sharper in some details to me comparing the plates. However, I evidently did not think that it was a sufficient improvement over my specimen and did not bid on it in the Hessberg sale."

Ex Henry Chapman's sale of the Matthew Adams Stickney Collection. June 25, 1907, lot 176: Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd: Stack's sale of selections from the Ryder-Boyd Collections, June 8, 1994, lot 47.

In the 1907 Stickney sale, this coin sold for \$2.75, the fourth highest price paid for a Connecticut copper in that sale. This lot is accompanied by Ryder's ticket which reads "Very Good. Not in Crosby. Rare."

The coin sold for \$1,610 in that auction to Don Partrick, where it was his frontline coin for four years before he acquired the fabulous Uncirculated Ford coin in 2005, a piece with much glossier surfaces than this one, but showing about the same level of design detail on both sides. Purchased at the Partrick sale in late 2020 by Neil Rothschild, one of the last additions to his collection before he passed away.

This is a first-rate example of the variety, and certainly still in the Condition Census for the variety, as one would expect from it being included in so many first-rate collections. The Ford coin is the finest known by far, with EF's in the EAC '75 sale, our Fixed Price List #14, and the Syd Martin coin from the Tony Terranova collection. The census then drops to a few VFs, including this one – though we note that the cataloguer of the Partrick sale considered this example to be nearly equal to the EAC '75 coin. Regardless of where it ranks in the census, it is a coin that cannot easily be upgraded, and was in the collections of a Who's Who list of prominent numismatists. It also comes with a treasure trove of paper ephemera – the Ryder ticket and Partrick envelope are illustrated below, but also comes with George Perkins' envelope, the lot ticket from the Perkins sale, and Neil Rothschild's envelope and lot ticket as well, all meticulously saved by each owner. A wonderful example for the specialist, available for less than it sold at auction for in the Perkins sale, nearly 25 years ago!.....\$1,400

1786 CONNECTICUT
5-11
R Very good.
Not in Crosby. Rare.

Stickney
June 25 1907
No 176
Liker

1786 CONNECTICUT
VGBH 5.11-R
ms=10 DG=30/20 corp
RG+ High Condition Census
Donald Gross
Collection
67 Stickney 176
94 Ryder Boyd 47
Perkins 248
11200 Hanson 1650

The Hayes-Hall-Brand-Hessberg-Partrick Miller 16.2-NN.1
With Dr. Hall's White Ink on Edge
A Condition Census Coin



32. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 16.2-NN.1, W-3005. Rarity-5. Draped Bust Left. NGC Graded XF40, an accurate grade. This is another well-provenanced Connecticut copper, hailing from a different line of notable collectors than the last lot, starting with William Wallace Hayes, who traded it to Dr. Thomas Hall, whose collection was purchased intact by uber collector Virgil Brand. Held in the Brand estate until select pieces were privately sold, this ended up in the collection of Edward Hessberg, with its first appearance at public auction being the sale of his collection in June 1991 where this appeared as Lot 1388 where, like most coins in that offering, was tersely described and undergraded. Purchased by a private collector there, it appeared as Lot 57 in the June 1995 Stack's sale where Michael Hodder catalogued it more appropriately:

1787 M. 16.2-NN.1. Draped Bust Left. R-5+ to R-6- (revised). Extremely Fine. 152.3 gns. Nice, even orange brown on both sides. Fields mostly smooth and hard, just minor micro-granularity. Obverse flawed through face and top of head; reverse micro-striated. Tiny rim dent below effigy's left shoulder, otherwise, no rim nicks/dents requiring notice. High Condition Census: this example is finer than Taylor's three, Norweb's, Oechsner's, and the ANS coin. It is exceeded by EAC '75:101 and, on the strength of Breen's grading, Stearns:179. This variety missing from the Ryder-Boyd collection. Hall's attribution number painted on edge in yellowed white lacquer as "16-2 NN". Hall's original attribution number for this variety was "16.4-n.1" and was changed to "16-2 NN" on March 8, 1891. Dr. Hall recorded in his inventory ledger that this coin was graded "Fine" and was "An exchange with Mr. Hays May 13, 1891." Die states as Taylor:2434; reverse aligned "coin turn," unusual for the variety.

Just to show what a good job of cataloguing can do, the coin realized \$2,970 in that sale, more than triple what it had brought in the poorly-catalogued Hessberg auction! Many of the

Hessberg coins were finest known of the variety, and this one was certainly near the top of the census when it was sold. A later discovery was in the Syd Martin collection; graded 5 points nicer and is a bit sharper overall, and that coin is fully deserving that finest known accolade today. The only coin vying for that honor is the spectacular double struck example with the second strike 50% off center that was in the Don Partrick collection, realizing \$6,600 in November 2020. The EAC '75 coin is of equal sharpness to this example, with fewer planchet flaws but was described as being "several shades of brown," whereas this coin is a nice, even light brown – in reality the two coins are probably pretty equal to each other overall. Aside from these three coins, there have been none offered that approach this (the Stearns coin that Breen mentioned has not been seen, and is not present in Robert Martin's annotated notebooks; unplated in that sale it is impossible to say where it ranks). The Eric Newman coin was of EF sharpness, but heavily rough and with some green spots and deep flaws, while the Oechsner coin was a sharp VF but heavily scratched. Nothing else offered at auction has been graded better than VF, so this coin's presence in the Condition Census is assured.

Oddly the variety has a number of errors other than the double struck AU Partrick coin. We had another double struck on our FPL #25, and had a triple struck on our FPL #11, earlier from the Buckley collection, a different double struck example was in the Coin Galleries June 1980 sale, later in Bowers and Merena's November 1986 auction, and a dramatic large tab double strike was in the Bowers November 1990 auction of the Schenkel collection.

The "White Ink on Edge" coins have always held a special place in the hearts of Connecticut copper specialists. Dr. Hall had his pick of coins in the late 19th century, and was astute enough to buy the best of each variety that he could, constantly upgrading as he went along. It is no wonder that Virgil Brand happily wrote him a check to acquire the collection intact – though one wonders how it would have been catalogued by the Chapmans or other early dealers, and it would have been nice to have the complete collection in the historical record (though because of the quality of the coins, a substantial number can be traced). I remember several sales where Syd Martin, Robert Martin, Neil Rothschild, Tony Terranova, Don Partrick and a few others all competed for these special coins, each winning some, but no one cornering the market on them. This very special coin brought \$2,970 nearly 30 years ago – how is it possible that it is available for less money today? When the present generation of collectors realizes the importance of such coins and learns to appreciate their quality, they will wonder why they didn't keep their hands in the air, bidding them to new highs – because the coins truly are worth it! Until then, this one sure seems like a bargain at just.....\$2,250

In the pictured NGC slab with the Partrick and Hall provenance noted. Accompanied by Don Partrick's original handwritten envelope and the original lot ticket from the Stack's June 1995 auction quoted above. We note that Don Partrick's envelope which accompanies this coin notes that he paid \$2,800 for it, while the auction prices realized says the lot sold for \$2,970 all in (\$2700 plus the 10% buyer's fee)

A GORGEOUS Miller 18-g.1, Choice About Uncirculated *Ex Steve Tannenbaum Collection*



33. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 18-g.1. Rarity-6. Choice About Uncirculated. This is the STEVE TANNENBAUM specimen of the variety and appeared as Lot 7173 in the Stack's Bowers sale of his collection in January, 2012, where it was described as follows:

1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 18-g.1, W-3045. Rarity-6. Draped Bust Facing Left. EF-45. 130.1 grains. Deep golden brown with traces of red in the protected areas though no doubt from a long-ago cleaning. Sharpness easily equal to the task of the assigned grade and readily comparable to Perkins:290 and Ford:313. Usual swelling in left obverse field, some central ticks from the striking process at the center and a light natural fissure along the hair ribbon, reverse with numerous tiny central ticks as well. Nicely centered and highly attractive, and perhaps at the low end of the Condition Census for the variety.

We disagree slightly with the cataloguer of that sale in terms of grade – to our eyes the light red in the protected areas is completely natural, and the coin is a full AU in grade; bidders in the audience certainly agreed, as the piece realized \$1,150 over a dozen years ago, which was fair AU money at the time. Steve considered it to be the second finest known of the variety, and indeed we have not seen anything better than this at auction; the closest was the Partrick-Hessberg coin, an AU with a large planchet flaw. Ford's was a Choice VF but still called the second finest seen by its cataloguer – though this example is much nicer in every respect. Taylor's was undergraded there at VF20, and there were Choice VFs in Bowers 1990 "Commodore Perry" sale and 1997 C4 auctions, while an EF/AU that was ex Dr. Hall appeared in the Stack's June 1994 Boyd-Ryder offering. This is one of a handful of Connecticut Copper varieties that proved to be much rarer than previously thought, and its rarity rating has gone up over the years while most others have drifted at least slightly downwards. This example has the typical late obverse die state, the swelling no doubt accounting for the rarity of the variety today. This obverse was paired only with this reverse, so it seems both dies must have failed around the same time. A gorgeous example of a legitimately rare variety, with an exceptional provenance. This will simply not be improved upon.....\$2,200

Accompanied by Steve's original handwritten envelope and the lot ticket from the 2012 auction of his collection.

Probable Finest Known Miller 33.19-q *Syd Martin's Example of a Very Rare Variety!*



34. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 33.19-q, W-3660. High Rarity-6. Draped Bust Left. PCGS Graded EF-40, which is accurate, though we note that Syd Martin called this a VF30. An amazing example of this rare variety, the finest Syd Martin was able to locate, and the nicest that we have ever seen. When offered in the first sale of Syd's 1787's it was expertly catalogued by Stack's Bowers as:

133.2 grains. Deep olive brown with gentle mottling in the reverse patina. Glossy and fairly hard surfaces with just a trace of light granularity and some of the usual planchet texture that has left roughness through the centers. Some minor flan streaks and retained laminations are noted, but none stand out too much. A small rough patch at the obverse rim near 4 o'clock is probably a further natural flaw. A couple of tiny rim nicks are noted, but there is little else to speak of in terms of handling impairments. A little off center on both sides with the upper leaves of laurel and some details at the lower left reverse slightly compromised. This seems standard for the pairing, as the 1975 EAC and Taylor coins are centered the same, as are some others. One of two remarkable specimens offered in our December 2004 sale. This realized just over \$6,600, while the second, the former 1975 EAC sale coin, realized just over \$8,000. Comparison shows them to be very similar. The EAC coin has slightly sharper detail through the effigy's face, but larger and more distracting planchet flaws. We have seen nothing finer than these since. Newman had none, while the Partrick coin was only VG-8. Suffice it to say, this is likely CC#1, or very close to it, as suggested on Syd's envelope.

Provenance: From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of October 1976, lot 647; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of December 2004, lot 41; Jim LaSarre, via John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), June 2006.

The variety was long called an R-7, but a few lower-grade examples have been discovered, and it is comfortably in the High R-6 category today. Robert Martin's notebooks trace a dozen examples, including three in the collection of the American Numismatic Society. The Stack's Bowers archives has six different specimens, most of them listed in Martin's census, while the

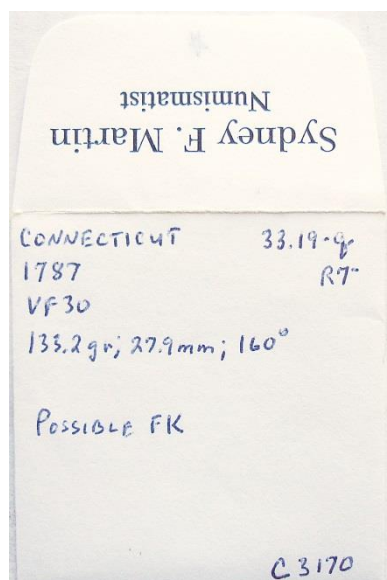
Heritage archives shows just four. As the Stack's cataloguer noted the only example that even approaches this one in overall quality is the EAC '75 coin, and comparing the two images this one does appear to be slightly more attractive overall, especially as it shows far more of the central reverse detail. Syd certainly thought it was the better choice, as he chose to buy this one and not the EAC '75 piece when it appeared in later appeared in the Twin Leaf collection. The remainder of the coins in the Stack's Bowers archives range from Good to Fine, often with problems, and this is the same grade range for the four in Heritage's archives. The Hessberg example was the Dr. Hall coin which was only VG and bent – a telling comment indeed, as the good doctor assembled what was certainly the finest-quality collection of his era, and was known to upgrade wherever possible. Perkins had the Taylor example, graded F/VF (bringing \$4,125 in January 2000), and the Ford coin was the Miller collection piece, later ex Ryder-Boyd, and was a VG/Fine (bringing \$2,200). Eric Newman did not own the variety, and it has been missing from several other notable offerings of the series.

While the date of the first auction appearance for this coin was noted in the description, it wasn't mentioned that this was the Julius Turoff sale – one of those early sales that contained some amazing coins, selling at prices that only make you wish someone would hurry up and invent a time machine already (a 1787 1.1-VV at \$45, a nice 1788 1-I at \$52.50). While not actually Turoff's collection, it was one carefully assembled by its owner, there were 225 Connecticut coppers, including some very rare varieties and high-quality coins – but the auction was conducted in Los Angeles, at a time when all but a couple collectors were on the east coast, and despite being held right after the Bicentennial, when interest in colonials was high, the auction prices were surely disappointing to the consignor.

This is an exceptional example. Very well struck, attractive, with an excellent provenance going back a half century. It is a coin that will never be upgraded. It brought over \$6,600 when sold at auction in 2004 – and Syd paid more than that for it when he acquired the coin a year and a half later. But today it can be yours for just about half that price!.....\$3,500

In the special Syd Martin PCGS slab, accompanied by Syd's original handwritten envelope (illustrated below), two of Jim LaSarre's handwritten envelopes (a small 2x2 and a larger one it went into), and the original lot ticket from the Bowers and Merena December 2004 auction he purchased it in.

*Syd Martin's handwritten envelope
for this coin, in his printed envelope
that could have easily said
"Numismatist Extraordinaire"*



An Attractive Circulated AUCTOBI Obverse Error Type



35. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 39.1-h.1, W-4210. Rarity-5. Draped Bust Left, AUCTOBI. Fine/Very Fine, the obverse weaker than the reverse as is usually the case for the variety – though this is better than most we have seen in this grade range, as the weakness is at the base of the obverse, not the left side as sometimes seen, and here AUCTOBI instead of AUCTORI error is strong. Indeed, all the legends are strong, and the date is sharp and fully on the planchet as well. While you can't see much of the drapery on the obverse bust, the eye and upper face is sharp enough, and the reverse is especially strong, showing that the weaker obverse is due to strike, not wear. The seated figure is bold, with a full branch, and strong shield at her side. Even better for a circulated example, the planchet is a pleasing dark tan with surfaces that are hard. Scattered circulation marks are visible with a glass, as expected for the grade, but none merit special notice, and the coin is nicely free of the dark, rough surfaces that sometimes plague the variety and type in general. A “pretty” coin for the grade, and a very decent example for the collector on a budget – going up to a stronger VF means getting close or into four-figure range. Ten years ago we wouldn't have been able to stock one at anywhere near this price – making this a good time for collectors to take a fresh look at the series, which offers scarce and rare varieties that are still quite affordable!.....\$250



A Pleasing AUCTOPI / ET IIB Double Error



36. 1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 42-kk.2, W-4245. Rarity-5-. Draped Bust Left, AUCTOPI obverse error/ET IIB reverse error. Nearly Very Fine, an attractive example of a scarce and popular variety and type – the Connecticut copper series has a number of interesting legend errors, most of which are listed as distinct types in the *Redbook*. A bit weakly struck at the lower obverse and reverse, with those small areas looking more like a solid Fine, while the rest is much closer to the full VF grade, and the branch in the seated figure's hand is especially sharp. The legends are full and bold, the all-important double errors of AUCTOPI instead of AUCTORI and ETIIB instead of ETLIB quite strong, the bottom quarter of the date off the planchet as centered, but the rest all there. Dark brown fields, with much lighter tan devices gives a lovely two-tone look to the coin. The surfaces are hard and pleasing to the eye, and while a glass will pick up some of the expected marks from circulation, none are serious enough to require noting. The varieties using the AUCTOPI obverses tend to come dark and rough, often with post-strike damage of one sort or another, and finding a pleasing middle-grade example is difficult. This is just such a coin. From the Phillip W. Keller collection, with his typed, where he notes his purchase of the piece in 1954 from Holinbeck coin, the precursor to the firm of Kagin's today – a nice 70-year provenance, and an early purchase by Keller, in an era where he would have had few competitors for nice coins. Keller also noted a couple pieces he saw in 1967 on the envelope in pencil. A pretty coin, with a nice bit of history.....\$325

A 1788 Miller 15.1-L.1 With Nice Color



37. 1788 Connecticut Copper. Miller 15.1-L.1, W-4585. Rarity-4. Draped Bust Left. Very Fine, into the choice category in terms of color, but not quite sharply struck at the center reverse to merit that designation. That said, the coin is quite strong everywhere else – the legends are full, the individual letters all bold save for the LI of LIB which are just a tad weak, and all but the bottoms of the 8's are on the planchet and strong. The obverse bust has strong drapery and facial detail, the hair a bit flat as usually found. The reverse figure has a bold branch and shield, and her head and torso are strong, though her central area is weak – this area showing diagonal planchet striations, which were in the original planchet. This small area of weakness is also opposite a large central obverse planchet flaw, which resulted in there not being enough metal available to flow and “push” that part of the reverse into the die as the coin was being struck. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but natural planchet flaws have never bothered me much – they were there prior to striking, and where there when the coin was a gem red uncirculated! The coin is a lovely olive brown, the surfaces quite hard aside from the area with the striations and planchet flaw, and while some minor marks from circulation can be seen with a glass, they are minimal. Specialists know that the 1788-dated issues (which were nearly all struck in 1789) usually have the worst strike and planchet quality. Those issues were not inspected by Connecticut state authorities, and no royalties were paid on them – and with the Coppers Panic starting to spread, the coiners pushed out as much product as they could, with whatever minor quality control that had existed earlier now abandoned. Still, the average grade for surviving 1788 varieties is fairly low, and the coins did circulate, both before the Coppers Panic and in the decades following, when the coinage of the Philadelphia Mint had not been large enough to supply the needs of commerce, especially in areas far away. Pleasing for the grade, and with nice eye appeal due to the choice color – and the planchet flaws just add a crude sort of charm. A little more detail would more than double the price.....\$225

A SHARP MARIS 6-D NEW JERSEY COPPER

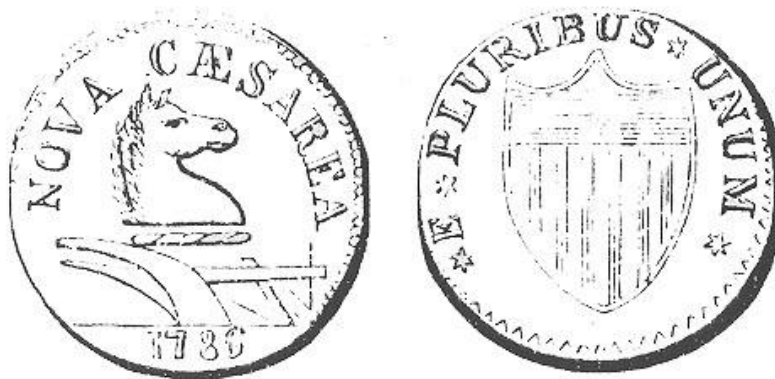


38. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 6-D, W-5050. Rarity-2. Double Coulter, M-Shaped Ears. Choice Very Fine, a lovely and well-struck example of this popular variety, with some details approaching the full EF grade, the reverse likely fully of that EF level. The legends are full, the individual letters all bold; the date is weaker as usual, though only the 8 is not visible. Strong design details on either side, the horse showing a bold eye and nostril, the distinct M-shaped ears sharp, and the plow below bold. The reverse is similarly strong, the wide shield showing all of the horizontal and vertical stripes within. Struck from a late state of both dies, the obverse with a half-dozen small die breaks in and around the plow handles, the reverse with a large break and cud at the base of the shield, extending in both directions. Chestnut brown, the surfaces mostly hard to the eye, with very few marks from actual circulation, and quite pleasing as such. While this variety normally strikes up well, it is often found on dark and rougher planchet stock – or with post-strike damage – and though common enough as a variety it is decidedly scarce in higher grades, and with great eye appeal. There are a couple Uncirculated examples known, with the Condition Census rounded out by AU coins, all of those pieces understandably sequestered in the finest collections around, and EF is often the best that one can hope for on the variety, unless you have a large budget and the patience to wait for one of the AUs to come around. Syd Martin's lovely EF brought \$2,640 in 2022 – the same price that a gorgeous Choice AU from the Anton collection realized just three years earlier, underscoring just how much more popular the New Jersey copper series became in a relatively short space of time, leading to dramatically rising price levels for choice coins and/or rare varieties – it's no secret that the Horsies have been the hottest part of the colonial market for the last five years. Indeed, taking a look back at our FPL #21 which consisted solely of NJ coppers, most would sell for 50-100% more if they were offered today! This attractive Maris 6-D would make a perfect example of the variety or type, and a very small upgrade would more than triple the price, so it is also a very good buy today at just.....\$750

***An Inexpensive, Cleanly-worn 1786 New Jersey Copper
For Under \$100!***



39. 1786 New Jersey Copper. Maris 23-R, W-4945. Rarity-3. Curved Plow Beam, Narrow Shield, Blundered Six. Very Good, a clean and evenly-worn specimen. Not perfect, the obverse fields do show some light roughness, while the reverse is cleaner. The legends are full on either side, the letters mostly strong, while the date is off the planchet due to the obverse being slightly off center towards the bottom. Solid design detail for the grade, the horse and plow outlined, the shield with some faint traces of the stripes within. We hesitated including this coin on this price list, but decided it was pretty enough for the grade – and a useful reminder that coins need not be high grade or with hard, choice surfaces in order to have that “pretty” factor. While this will not be a centerfold in the *New Jersey Copper Lovers Magazine* (you know it’s only a matter of time before that is started!), the dark brown fields and lighter tan devices give an attractive two-tone look, and aside from the obverse roughness there are no major marks from circulation, or post-strike, man-made damage. For the collector on a budget, the ability to get a reasonably attractive New Jersey copper for under a hundred bucks is rare indeed.....\$85



A Very Sharp Maris 43-d *with Lovely Color and Surfaces*



40. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 43-d, W-5225. Rarity-1. No Sprig Above Plow, Bulbous Nose, Outlined Shield. Choice Extremely Fine, a perfect example of this grade level. Boldly struck, the legends and date are all razor-sharp, as are the design details. The horse boasts a nearly full eye, and all the hair on its mane, while every horizontal and vertical stripe in the shield is bold. Rich tobacco brown, the surfaces are hard, retaining some original gloss, and with just the most minute circulation marks that you will need a glass to find. A small planchet clip at the upper-middle left obverse will be useful for provenance tracing, but touches none of the legend. One of the more common of New Jersey copper varieties, and one that can occasionally be found in higher grades – though for a common variety there are far fewer truly choice examples out there than one might expect. The Siboni Condition Census contains an amazing Gem Uncirculated example, a lesser Unc, three AU's and a Choice EF. But that will likely be revised in the upcoming work the authors of that book are working on. In cataloguing the Spiro coin that appeared in the August 2022 offering of Syd Martin's New Jersey coppers, the cataloguer there astutely noted that "there are probably well over a dozen additional examples in grades AU and above that deserve listing. A few of those include the Newman coin (NGC MS-64 BN, later crossed to PCGS MS-64 BN), the Partrick coin (sold in May 2021 as NGC MS-64 BN for \$90,000), the Ludwig Smith coin (McCawley and Grellman, January 1995, to Angel Pietri), and several certified Mint State and high AU examples that have appeared and disappeared as type coins rather than examples of this Maris number for specialized collections." That noted, some of the higher-grade pieces not included in the Siboni census have some problems. The Spiro-Martin coin had a rather large obverse spot, another Newman coin graded AU55 had a bit of corrosion, the Richard Rossa coin in the 2021 C4 sale was uncirculated, but cleaned and not well retoned. With a number of AUs out there, this Choice EF will not make the revised census, yet the sharp strike, clean surfaces, and pleasing, even color make it more attractive overall than some that might grade 5 points higher – even though it is priced at far less money! The AU Newman coin with corrosion brought \$1560 just last year, while this example, which is a much more wholesome coin is priced at just.....\$900

A Pleasing, Inexpensive Maris 48-g



41. 1787 New Jersey Copper. Maris 48-g, W-5275. Rarity-1. No Sprig Above Plow, Batman Shield. Nearly Very Fine, oh so close to that grade, and with just a touch more of the horse's eye and a bit stronger of shield lines, it would have made it. Very well struck, the legends are full, the individual letters all bold, while the date is also full, if a shade less sharp. The horse, plow, and shield all show very strong detail, better than one would expect for even a high-end Fine, with the horse showing some of the eye and nostril and much of the mane, and the shield with about three-quarters of the lines within visible. While the shield yields a cute nickname for the variety, aficionados of the 1960s series know that the foldable bat-shield stored in Batman's utility belt was shaped quite differently – but who are we to argue. Nice medium brown surfaces with the devices and legends a few shades lighter, giving a nice two-tone look. The obverse appears minutely rough at first glance, but is actually very tiny striae that were on the original blank planchet; the reverse has fewer of them and thus looks more hard to the eye. Some trivial circulation marks on either side, as expected for a coin that spent time in trade, but none that merit special note. The Maris 48-g is one of the three most common New Jersey copper varieties, and one that can be found in higher grades – for a price (we note the lovely Shaw coin brought just over ten grand when last sold at the 2021 ANA convention auction). The Siboni census consists of Unc and AU coins only, and there are probably just as many slabbed ones in those grades as are currently listed in the census (some of them, admittedly, with problems of one sort or another). Maris 48-g represents something of an entry-level drug, allowing a collector to acquire a pleasing example of the variety for very little money. A few such pieces and an interest in the series will soon turn to addiction, but it is soon discovered that after those first few, prices start to go up – dramatically. But, hey, you can stop anytime you want, right? No, of course you can't – that's what makes us collectors! For those not already suffering from Horsie Fever, this is an attractive mid-grade New Jersey, with all the detail, and nice color you could want...and the price is just so tempting that you probably can't refuse. Go ahead, give in, just once won't hurt you.....\$225

A SHARP MARIS 50-F HEAD LEFT

Very Rare Die State I, From the Anton Collection



42. 1788 New Jersey Copper. Maris 50-f, W-5475. Rarity-3. Head Left. PCGS Graded VF-25, the obverse arguing for a slightly higher grade. This is one of the William Anton coins, sold in the Stack's Bowers August 2023 sale (as part of the "E Pluribus Unum" collection). It was described there as:

158.7 grains. A final example of this popular variety. Dark olive with tan devices over evenly granular surfaces. The horsehead is bold and the shield is better defined than often seen. The obverse rim is rounded at left, but shows bold, high relief denticles at right. The reverse is a bit striated and shows some trivial scratches in the top portions of the shield. The obverse is just finely granular, but also shows some old scratches in the field behind the horsehead and around the plowhandles. The eye appeal remains strong on both sides. This appears to be the very rare Die State 1, with no visible crack on the obverse and only a very shallow bulge behind the head.

Provenance: From the E Pluribus Unum Collection.

This is a variety that gets very expensive just a grade higher – Anton's PCGS VF30 brought \$6,000 in the Stack's Bowers 2019 C4 sale, and a third more, \$9,000 when offered with the Syd Martin collection by the same firm in August 2022. The Norweb-Partrick coin, NGC VF25, with lighter color and slightly rough surfaces brought \$14,400 in Heritage's March 2021 sale of the Partrick duplicate New Jersey coppers. But the strongest price was for the primary Partrick coin, an incredible MS63, ex double Garretts (the Garret family and unrelated collector Henry Garrett), which brought \$180,000 in January 2021, and \$192,000 when sold by Heritage a year later in their November 2022 sale. While the published Condition Census goes from Unc down to VF, the present example would likely just miss out on that list. But it is the rarest die state for the variety, specifically noted as such in the Siboni-Howes-Ish book, and must surely rank as one of the finest known examples in Die State I. Even better, it's offered here at far less than what similar VF25-graded coins have brought in recent sales – provenance, grade, die state, and price, hard to go wrong at just.....\$5,500

A Pleasing Landscape Vermont Copper VERMONTENSIUM type



43. 1786 Vermont Copper. Landscape. RR-7, Bressett 5-E, W-2025. Rarity-3. VERMONTENSIUM type. Very Fine, the reverse just a shade weaker than the obverse as almost always the case. The all-important obverse here is bold, with the legend full, the individual letters quite sharp, save for the last E of VERMONTENSIUM which is visible, but a bit weaker than its neighbors. The date is quite strong. Good design detail on the mountain range, with the trees and sun's face sharp; the share of the plow is weak due to the die failure usually seen on the variety, but the rest can be made out. On the reverse, the legend is also full, the M of DECIMA slightly weakened by some planchet striae in that area, the individual letters not as those on the obverse. The all-seeing eye at the center is strong, with a full separation between it and the lid, while the rays and stars surrounding it are weaker but mostly visible, though those opposite the obverse die bulge are quite weak as a result. Lovely medium brown, the obverse with a tiny flaw between the right edge of the mountain and the U of PUBLICA, and the small striae mentioned on the reverse at the M of DECIMA, but nicely free of any of the major planchet flaws that tend to plague the landscape varieties. The surfaces are hard to the eye, while a glass shows the faintest roughness, and there are no appreciable manmade marks or damage from circulation. A perfectly well-balanced example of the variety and type, with excellent color and eye-appeal for a mid-range coin. Higher-grade examples of Ryder-7 do exist, though often on planchets with far more pre-strike flaws. Syd Martin's Choice AU, ex Ellsworth and Garrett collections was a particularly pleasing example bringing \$14,400 when it sold last year. Middle-grade examples tend to come either on flawed planchet stock, dark and rough, or with parts of the legends not struck up – finding one that is clean and pleasing is actually harder for VF coins than it is for AUs! This one will be hard to even marginally upgrade without more than doubling the price.....\$1,200

Syd Martin's Very Choice Ryder 20
PCGS AU50, the second finest certified by PCGS



44. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-20, Bressett 10-L, W-2150. Rarity-3. Bust Right. PCGS Graded AU50, likely one that will get resubmitted and come back a few points higher in the future, as there is substantial gloss and excellent eye appeal to the coin. This is the Syd Martin coin, one of two AU's he had in his collection (of course). It appeared as lot 8409 of the August 2023 sale of his collection, catalogued there as:

132.9 grains. Uncommonly nice even for an RR-20, where a small handful of choice AU coins exist that are essentially interchangeable twins of each other. This one is well-centered, mahogany brown and lustrous on the obverse, the reverse a shade or two darker with ruddy highlights where the original mint color was last to fade. Very well struck and nearly unworn, the lack of wear in turn preserving the fine die lines that are almost diagnostic of high-grade Confederation era coppers. Struck from a slightly more advanced state of the dies than the Crosby-Garrett RR-20 also in this sale, with the dies showing a bit more wear, the die cracks from rim to D and E of INDE are present but thin, and there is fine clashing of lettering visible through the date and would only be noticeable on a very high grade coin like this. If you're looking for superb Vermont type coin, look no further.

Provenance: From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Stack's Rare Coins, February 2010.

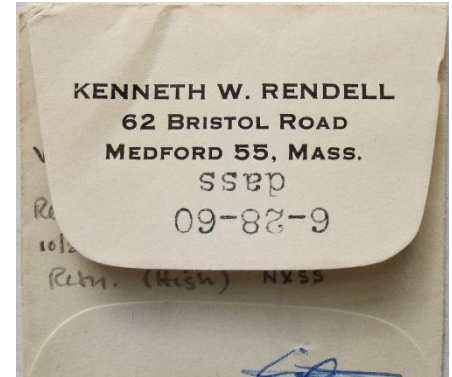
The die finishing lines are amazing, especially on the reverse – email us for a larger image which will show them in all their glory! Tony Carlotto notes that the variety is “found on some of the finest planchet in the Vermont series,” but also notes that pieces that are “XF and higher are very scarce.” The frontline Partrick coin was NGC graded AU55, with some darker toning at the lower left reverse, showing slightly more central reverse detail than this, and worthy of the higher grade – it may be the finest known of the variety, as the Heritage cataloguer suggested,

and would likely cross over to a 55 or, at worst, a 53 PCGS holder. The Crosby-Garrett coin mentioned in the Syd Martin catalogue is the only other nicer slabbed one to have been sold at auction, grading PCGS AU53, the highest graded example of the variety at PCGS; though it had an illustrious provenance, it was a bit spotty and overall this example is more attractive – and bidders agreed, as it realized over \$2,000 more at the same auction, one lot later. The second Partrick coin, from the Q. David Bowers collection, was graded AU50 by NGC, but had a huge, unattractive dark spot on the reverse, and would likely not make that grade level in a PCGS holder, and once again this specimen has far nicer eye appeal. Eric Newman's coin was also an NGC AU50, a darker olive color, a bit sharper at the center reverse than this one, but with less eye appeal overall. No truly uncirculated examples of the variety have been certified, though one can make the case that any of these AUs technically didn't circulate, with any light rub on the high points actually being from cabinet friction – but the matter is really moot, since an AU is the best that a collector can hope to find. This one is nicely free of the spotting found on the Bowers-Partrick and Crosby-Garrett coins, and presents nicer overall than the Newman one. Is it the second finest known of the variety? I suppose that depends on who owns it! Syd certainly thought so, and I suspect it's next owner will as well. Free of spots, circulation marks or any other sort of post-strike damage, this is a coin that would fit nicely into the finest collection of the series, or serve as an example of the type that cannot be improved. It's not cheap, but quality seldom is.....\$10,000

In the special Syd Martin PCGS holder as pictured, accompanied by Syd's original handwritten envelope.



A NICE EXAMPLE OF THE RARE RYDER 22
Ex Phillip Keller, Kenneth Rendell



45. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-22, W-2165. Rarity-5-. Mailed Bust Right. Very Fine, nearly in the choice category. A boldly struck example of this rare variety, the legends full on either side, with the individual letters mostly quite strong. The date is sharp, and nearly all on the planchet. The obverse bust shows ample detail in the mailing, hair, and face. The reverse is slightly weaker than the obverse, as always, due to the large diebreak arching from the branch down to Liberty's feet, which took some metal away from the deeper part of the design, but the oddly-shaped shield at her side is very sharp, as is the ruffle of her skirt above the exergue line. Medium brown, the surfaces hard to the eye, with a few trivial striae, but free of the heavy planchet flaws often found on VF and up examples of the variety. Hidden in the central reverse design are three small, ancient scratches – toned down to the surface color and you will have to hunt to find them. While the variety is not as rare as once thought, most of the newly-discovered examples grade Fine or lower and are usually quite rough and/or damaged, and finding one with any sort of eye appeal is a challenge. Indeed, the only appreciably nicer one to appear at auction in recent years is the Syd Martin coin, from the Hinkley collection, which graded EF45 but with a number of old obverse scratches, but still realized \$5,280 last year. The Ford coin was also an EF (though graded VF when offered as part of the Ford sale), and though it had rather unattractive large planchet flaws at the central obverse realized \$5,175 when last sold in August 2021. Both the Stack's Bowers and Heritage archives have a couple VF's listed, though they generally have lesser planchet and surface quality than this coin. Heritage did have a lovely VF25 in their April 2022 auction, which brought \$2,040, even with a large reverse planchet flaw. This will be nearly impossible to upgrade, and even if you were able to find one a few points better, it would likely not have as clean and attractive a planchet. The only use of this reverse die, which must have broken early in its life, accounting for the rarity of the variety today. Definitely one for the Vermont specialist, offered at only.....\$1,250

The photos are from when the coin was in a slab, which it no longer is. Accompanied by Philip Keller's original envelope with typed and handwritten notes; the envelope is from Ken Rendell in 1960 – a noted dealer, authenticator and founder of the World War II Museum in Boston, who got his start selling coins; he was just 17 when Keller purchased this piece from him!

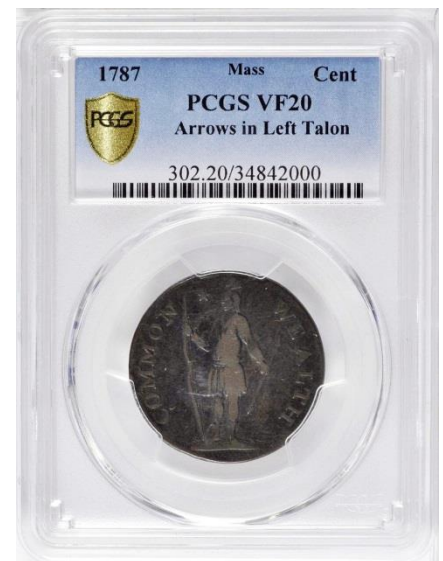
A Pretty Ryder 27, ex Mike Ringo *Machin's Mills style obverse bust*



46. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-27, Bressett 18-W, W-2205. Rarity-2. Bust Right. Very Fine, the obverse high in that grade level, the reverse more like a solid VF. The obverse is bold, with the legend strong, and the distinct bust showing all of the finer detail within including the armor, facial features and the unusual hair style, combed over from a central point at the rear of the head as found on the Nova Eborac and Machin's Mills coppers; the use of a 6-pointed star as an ornament in the legends of either side further ties this variety to the Machin's workshop. The reverse legend is also full, and the letters strong, while the date at the base is full but a little less sharp than the letters. Good design detail on the seated figure, with a bold branch and shield, and many of the folds within her dress visible as well. Medium brown, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, though a glass shows a very faint roughness – which clearly does not affect the “pretty” level of the coin, especially as there are no major marks or damage from circulation. This faint surface granularity is typical for the variety, and was even present on Syd Martin's gorgeous AU example (which brought \$3,840 last year). Not a rare variety, with a number of survivors in the VF-EF range, though of course rarer in grades better than that. The distinct Machin's style has always made the variety popular, and the bust style is unusual enough that it should be listed as a separate type in the *Redbook*. Accompanied by an old envelope from the late Mike Ringo, in his distinctive handwriting. There is no other notation on the envelope, so we are unsure whether this was from one of his price lists, or something he sold privately at one of the many shows he attended. A neat piece of historical ephemera. Mike was known for his cherry-picking abilities, and many rare die varieties in every series found in collections today were things plucked by Mike out of the inventory of dealers who never bothered to attribute their coins. I did an article detailing Mike's price lists for *The C4 Newsletter*, which is worth reading if you were never fortunate enough to meet or deal with the man. This pleasing mid-grade Ryder 27 is available for just.....\$450

Accompanied by the Mike Ringo handwritten envelope as pictured.

A Pleasing Mid-Grade 1787 Massachusetts Cent Ryder 2b-C. ex Demling Collection



47. 1787 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 2b-C, W-6050. High Rarity-4. Arrows in Left Talon. PCGS graded Very Fine 20, an accurate grade. This is the Mike Demling collection coin, sold by Stack's Bowers in their March 2018 sale, where it appeared as Lot 3019 and was described as:

145.6 grains. An attractive circulated example of this elusive die variety, with even dark chocolate brown fields contrasting with lighter brown devices. Finely but inoffensively granular under a glass, with some trivial scattered pits in the right obverse field and some verdigris among the devices of the central reverse. The usual large die break between the first date digit and M of MASSACHUSETTS resembles a series of dashes, a state between Ford:89 and Ford:90. A good looking piece, neither as pricey as the finer Ryder-Boyd-Ford coin, which brought \$10,925 in our (Stack's) 2004 sale and \$7,637.50 in the Partrick offering, nor as problematic as either of Ford's two duplicates.

Provenance: From the Michael Demling Collection of Massachusetts Cents. Earlier ex Stack's Bowers' sale of the Henry P. Kendall Foundation Collection, March 2015, lot 2505, where it had a CAC sticker affixed when in a different holder. Purchased by Kendall from Marshall Field's on January 5, 1958.

The variety was rated a full R-5 not that long ago, but lower-grade specimens (mostly from eBay and ground finds) have caused it to be a High R-4 today, still a scarce variety. VF is about as nice as the variety has been offered in recent years, the only exception being the Vlack-Tannenbaum-Twin Leaf coin, a lovely AU that brought \$3,360 in the worst market for the series in decades, a true bargain; the variety is unknown in full Uncirculated grade, and many of those graded VF are problematic, with surface roughness, damage, or other problems making them less desirable. This one brought just short of a grand when it sold in the Kendall sale in 2015, and is available for less than that today.....\$900

In the PCGS slab as pictured, accompanied by Mike Demling's distinct envelope.

And a Very Pretty 1788 Massachusetts Cent Ryder 11-F, a Low Rarity-5 Variety



48. 1788 Massachusetts Cent. Ryder 11-F, W-6310. Low Rarity-5. Slim Indian, Period After MASSACHUSETTS. Choice Very Fine, in an NGC Slab where this is graded VF30, an accurate grade. A boldly struck example of this rare variety, the reverse with all the detail of an EF coin, the obverse a bit weak at the Indian's upper tunic for that grade to my eyes, but I can almost guarantee this coin has been sold as EF in the past – or will be in the future, out of this slab! The TH of WEALTH is also weak, the remainder of the legends on both sides bold; the date a bit less sharp than the lettering, but all there. The Indian shows good detail for the grade, the pleats in the lower tunic full, and the eagle on the reverse is especially bold, with full feather details, and a strong CENT emblazoned on the shield. Rich medium tobacco brown, a few trivial striae around the obverse rim which were there before the blank planchet was struck, but absolutely no detracting marks from circulation – a choice circulated example indeed. There aren't a whole lot of distinctly nicer out there, judging by the auction record. One incredibly choice example was in the Taylor, Partrick, Twin Leaf and Syd Martin collections (graded MS65 in the middle two sales and MS64 in the latter), which brought \$14,100 in Partrick and \$11,400 in the Martin sale. Newman also had an Unc, a bit rough and with a light flaw, ex Colonel Green, which brought just under \$6,500 back in 2014. The *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins* specifically notes the variety is rare above VF, and this is certainly the case; a search of the available auction archives show just a couple solid EF's that are marginally nicer than this, while most of the coins graded VF tend to be corroded or scratched. This is one that will be nearly impossible to improve on, unless you want to move into five-figures whenever one of the two Uncs comes around again – which might be quite some time! A very pretty coin, and one the specialist will appreciate!.....\$1,000

In the NGC slab, as pictured.

**THE VERY RARE
1787 INDIAN/NEW YORK ARMS**
Only 15 Examples Known in all grades
*The EF Details Ted Craige Coin – offered at
well under half what it brought at auction in 2013!*



49. 1787 Excelsior Copper. W-5795. Rarity-6+. Indian / New York Arms. PCGS Graded EF Details--Environmental Damage, an accurate grade. This is the Ted Craige example of this rarity, a coin that was off the market for nearly a half century between the time Craige purchased it as a dealer and when it was offered in the Stack's Bowers March 2013 sale of his collection, as Lot 314, where it was described as:

100.31 grains. Charcoal-gray and brown with fine surface granularity akin to burial patina or fire scale. Some raised metal specks on the obverse are consistent with heat exposure, mostly scattered around the lower half of the obverse. The sharpness is excellent on both sides; centering is typical with a few denticles visible in the upper right obverse. One of the classic rarities of the Confederation era, with the distinctive Standing Indian design and his accompanying motto LIBER NATUS LIBERTATEM DEFENDO or "Born free, I defend freedom." This issue is thought to have been coined as a pattern in one of the efforts to land a state coinage contract from New York; no state contract was ever awarded. John Ford extensively researched this issue and kept a careful census of it; he counted a dozen specimens, though it is difficult to tell which of his entries (if any) matches up with this one. Ford did note that Mrs. Norweb owned a "VG, corroded" specimen, but no such coin ever turned up in the Norweb sales. Did Mrs. Norweb spin it off to Ted Craige via their mutual favorite dealer Richard Picker in the hopes of getting a better one someday? Or did Ford simply see one somewhere and misremember where he saw it? Ford's own piece sold for just \$63,250 in 2004, a seeming bargain considering Garrett's brought \$21,000 hammer in 1979. Either Garrett's or Ford's would be a six-figure coin today. This one represents a somewhat different price point that should be

very attractive to most collectors who seek an example of this famous rarity. Mr. Craige priced this example at \$2,500 circa 1970.

Provenance: From the Ted L. Craige Collection. Paper envelope included.

The coin sold for a strong \$55,812.50 in spirited bidding – understandable perhaps, as it had been some time since a higher-grade example had come up for auction, though in the decade since this one sold more examples crossed the auction block than in the previous half century combined, the result of major collections coming onto the market.

Previous census lists have been woefully incomplete, and we have spent several days updating it. There are 15 examples of this issue now known, with the present coin right in the middle of the census;

1. MS64. Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. (Bowers and Merena, 5/1996), lot 58 at \$143,000. Sold as MS65 in the Eliasberg sale, NGC graded MS64 when sold in the Don Partrick collection (Heritage, 1/2021), lot 3932 for an amazing \$204,000. This is likely the J.N.T. Levick coin (Woodward 10/1864), lot 1543 described as “uncirculated, portions of the copper still bright, without a doubt the finest existing specimen of this very rare coin.” It brought \$73 to “Putnam.”

2. Choice AU. Sarah Sophia Banks (1818); British Museum. Listed as Banks-59 in this author’s exploration of the colonial coins in her collection, *Journal of Early American Numismatics*, June 2020 (Vol. 3, No. 1), p. 105. It was noted there that Miss Banks was aware that this was a pattern issue when she acquired the coin, likely in the 1790s.

3. Choice AU. Lorin G. Parmelee (New York Coin & Stamp Co., 6/1890), lot 457; H.P. Smith (Chapman Brothers, 6/1906), lot 124; Col. James W. Ellsworth; John Work Garrett; Johns Hopkins University (Bowers and Ruddy, 11/1979), lot 601. Graded EF40 in the Garrett sale, we note that Ford called this one VF!

4. AU50 PCGS, lightly cleaned. Eric P. Newman (Heritage, 11/2014), lot 3028, realized \$88,125; (Heritage 1/16), lot 1231 at \$73,437.50; (Heritage 8/16), lot 3932 at \$64,625.

5. AU53 NGC, some notable roughness at top half of the obverse. Harlan P. Smith (S.H. & H. Chapman, 5/1906, lot 124, graded EF, at a strong \$130; William Sumner Appleton; Massachusetts Historical Society; ANA Sale (Stack’s, 8/1976), lot 72; Baltimore Auction (Stack’s Bowers, 10/2018) at \$48,000, lot 7090; Dickson (Heritage 8/21), lot 3293, selling for \$50,400. Yes, the slab grade is a bit higher than the Newman and Garrett coins above, but those are nicer in every respect, and do not have the rough obverse surfaces that this AU53 has.

6. XF. F.C.C. Boyd Estate; John J. Ford, Jr. (Stack’s, 5/2004), lot 312, at \$60,500. Oddly, Ford was able to find no previous provenance for this coin.

7. XF. Joseph Mickley (Woodward, 10/1867) at \$90; Charles Ira Bushnell (S.H. & H. Chapman, 6/1882), lot 888, described as “purple brown color” and bringing \$105 to Allison W. Jackman, but not included in the H. Chapman sale of that collection 6/1918; possibly traded away: we note that Jackman purchased the George Clinton cent the lot before this in the Bushnell sale as well, but the one sold in his collection was a “private sale from Dr. Hall.” Later in the Brand Collection. Only the obverse was photographed on the Bushnell auction plates, and the centering does not appear to match any of the above coins.

8. XF Details PCGS, the present coin, ex Ted Craige collection. Likely not the piece thought to be ex Norweb (see number 13 and 14 below). One can debate where in the census it ranks due to the details vs. straight grade. Sold in the Craige sale for \$55,812.50.

9. VF30 PCGS. Alexander Bache (Woodward, 3/1865) described as “very fine indeed, but little circulated,” selling for \$77.50; Heman Ely (Woodward, 1/1884), lot 1013 selling for \$75. Peter Gschwend (collection purchased intact by William H. Woodin, then consigned for auction to Elder 6/1908), lot 87; F.C.C. Boyd Collection; Boyd Estate to New Netherlands Coin Company on April 25, 1958; John L. Roper (Stack’s 12/83), lot 275; Americana sale (Stack’s 1/98), lot 198; (Stack’s 5/07), lot 521 (at \$103,500!); Syd Martin (Stack’s 3/23), lot 1083, at \$36,000. The Ely plate shows only the obverse, but the centering and strike match.

10. VF20 PCGS John G. Mills Collection (Chapman Brothers, 4/1904), lot 348; John Story Jenks Collection (Henry Chapman, 12/1921), lot 5493; Donald Groves (Partrick) Sale (Stack’s, 11/1974), lot 336; Henry P. Kendall Foundation (Stack’s, 3/2015), lot 2511, at \$58,750; Willis (Heritage 8/17), lot 3828, sold for \$47,000. Earlier census listings erroneously called the Mills and Jenks listings different coins, but they are in fact the same.

11. VF details, very flawed planchet. Charles Clay (William Strobridge, 12/1871), lot 89, realizing \$27. James Ten Eyck (B. Max Mehl, 5/1922), lot 816. Described as “Struck on an imperfect planchet, obliterating LIBER NATUS on obverse, and part of Figure on reverse, otherwise Fine. Ford graded it Good, and said the coin was filed, not weakly struck on a flawed planchet; the surviving detail would likely grade VF today, and it appears the weakness is as struck; it brought \$21 in 1922, but has not been seen since.

12. Fine, holed. Matthew Stickney (Henry Chapman, 6/1907), lot 240. Called “Good. Bad hole below Indian’s feet,” it realized \$10. The plate shows a coin of near VF detail, the hole quite large and near the lower rim, causing a bulge there. Later W. B. Guy (Henry Chapman, 11/1911), lot 75, realizing \$7.50. The coin was later plugged, the bulging edge filed down, and tooled, strengthening some of the lettering at the left obverse; later in New Netherlands Coins 44th Sale (6/54, lot 71), graded VG, with the plug noted. In previous censuses this was called two different coins, but is indeed the same specimen.

13. VG. Henry Dittmer, lightly rough (Heritage 5/11), lot 3687, selling for \$20,400. This or the following coin, is likely the piece that Ford said was part of the Norweb collection (called VG corroded), and not the Craige piece offered here, as was surmised in that catalogue – not even Ford would have called the Craige piece a VG!

14. VG8 PCGS (Heritage 8/22), lot 3861, sold for \$25,200, later (Heritage 1/24), lot 4001, sold for \$22,800 – no prior provenance noted, but could also be the ex-Norweb piece mentioned above.

15. Likely Good or so. Thomas Warner (S.H. & H., 6/1884, though erroneously listed in previous censuses as the Mrs. Warner sale of 7/1891), lot 2094. Graded “Poor, word NATUS not visible.” While a couple of the pieces listed above have NATUS weak, it is visible on all of them, so this likely represents an example that has not been seen in over a century.

There are also a couple coins that have not been firmly traced, but which are likely examples listed above, with these early links of their provenance chains now lost.

X1. Likely EF or better. McCoy (Woodward 5/1864), lot 1763, described as “of extreme fineness,” realizing \$82.50, selling to “Dunbar.” Given the grade this may be the Mickley coin or any of the ones listed above it, save for Miss Banks’s specimen.

X2. Unknown Grade. Jeremiah Colburn (W. Elliot Woodward, 5/1863), lot 2053. Described as “not in fine condition, but good for so rare a colonial.” It brought \$30, just \$5 less than what a decent Higley copper realized. This is probably the same coin that was offered in Woodward’s

sale of his own collection five months later (10/1863), lot 2627, where it was described as “in ordinary or rather poor condition” and realized \$22. Likely offered again by Woodward (12/1865), lot 1732 where it was described as “from the Haines collection; not in fine condition, but still a desirable piece), where it only brought \$12; this is likely Ferguson Haines who may have purchased it at the second auction noted. Haines conducted a sale of his own collection in 1877, and consigned to other auctioneers in the 1880s and 1890s; he was married in June 1865 and one wonders if he needed to sell some coins to please his new bride, consigning the piece back to Woodward, but getting barely half what he paid for it two years earlier. This is likely one of the final three pieces listed above, though as it was unplated in any of these Woodward auctions, it is unknown which one.

A very rare coin in any condition, and one that is always in demand by advanced collectors – and, a perusal of the above detailed census list will show that many famous collectors of the past lacked it in any grade whatsoever. Amazingly, nine of the fifteen known examples have crossed the auction block in the last 20 years, a quantity coming up for sale in a short period of time that has not been matched since the 1865-1885 era. Rarities like this tend to get locked up in major collections, and are off the market for decades – and when one appears after a long dry spell, the bidding can be furious! Such was the case for this example, which brought under 10% less than the much nicer Ford coin, sold just nine years earlier – but it was also the only example offered at auction in that time, and that created great collector interest. Prices fell as a few more came out, but it will likely be some time before another example is offered – and if there is a long wait before that happens, the bidding will be furious. With more recent auction records of much lower-grade and rough specimens at over \$20,000 (see coins 13 and 14 above), and a straight-graded VF at nearly \$60,000 (coin 10), and a previous prices realized of over \$55,000 for this exact coin, some lucky collector may get the bargain of the year at our price of only.....\$20,000

In the PCGS slab as pictured.



An Affordable Immunis Columbia



50. 1787 Immunis Columbia Copper / Large Eagle Reverse. W-5680. Plain Edge, Narrow Planchet. Rarity-4+. NGC Graded Fine Details. Strongly in the Fine category, the present example has full legends and rather sharp design details, some fully of the VF level, but not quite enough to bring the whole coin up to that level. The NGC details qualifier is “date tooled” which isn’t quite accurate – the date wasn’t changed or added to, someone just lightly removed the top loop of the 8 and the arm of the last 7 – this was done quite some time ago, and while light scratches can be seen in that area, they are all toned down to the surface color and really not all that noticeable without the aid of a glass. The date itself is fully on the planchet, something unusual for this type which is usually centered so that half or more of it is missing. Chocolate brown, the surfaces are otherwise hard, smooth and with just the most trivial of marks from circulation. Overall a pleasing example of this mysterious issue. Walter Breen thought them to have been struck in England, yet more are known than would be expected for something made as a pattern. The 1787 Immunis Columbia coppers could have been produced as a proposal for a contract coinage, and their rarity is about the same as the 1791 Washington Large and Small Eagle coins which were produced as such and apparently released into circulation when the contract was not received. One example is known with an ornamented edge, a technology not known in America at the time, though that piece could be overstruck on something that was made in England or elsewhere with an ornamented edge, perhaps with the designs ground down. A handful are known overstruck on 1787 New Jersey coppers, all Maris 26-S, which would seem to argue for an American manufacture since it seems unlikely a group of this one variety would make its way to England just to be overstruck by Immunis Columbia dies. They are certainly tied to the 1786 Immunis Columbia coppers, which link to the Confederatios, which link to the Nova Constellatios, which link to the New Jersey coppers via the Washington obverse mule...a puzzle that has been proclaimed solved a couple times in the pages of *The Colonial Newsletter*, yet still without any strong evidence. Short of having dies moving back and forth between the two countries, it seems the whole group must have been made in the US or in England – and there are adherents in both camps. Regardless, the 1787 Immunis Columbia is the only reasonably affordable one in the series – though nice examples still routinely bring mid-four and well into five-figures when auctioned. This pleasing circulated example, NGC certified as genuine, with a very small area of scratches but otherwise perfect-for-grade surfaces is priced right at just.....\$1,600

A VERY NICE RUN OF MACHIN'S MILLS

Starting with a pleasing Vlack 2-71A



51. 1771 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 2-71A, W-7670. Rarity-4. Group I. Nearly Very Fine, a pleasing example of the variety and general type. The legends are full on either side, the individual letters all strong, as is the date. As is typical for the variety, the centers are a bit flatly struck, as is the case with the example plated in the new Howes-Rosen-Trudgen reference book on the series (a book which sold out very quickly, and seems to have reignited interest in the Machin's issues). Struck slightly off-center towards 1:00, giving a nice swath of triangular denticles at the left obverse and upper reverse, but none of the legends are lost as a result of the centering. Medium brown, the surfaces hard to the eye, with very light granularity in the weakly struck areas, suggesting at least some of it was on the original blank planchet. A glass will pick up a few trivial hairlines and expected marks from circulation, none of which can be seen with the naked eye. The authors of the new book specifically note this "is a much more difficult variety to find than the rarity rating would suggest and is even more difficult to find on nice brown planchets." This is certainly the case, as a search of the auction archives show just a couple straight-graded ones that were appreciably nicer. Anton's marginally sharper piece was slabbed as VF25 (and could have easily been a 30), and brought \$2,040 back in 2020. The only other nicer one to come to auction was the EF Eric Newman coin, which brought \$4,080 back in 2017! While the archives show a number of VF details coins, they are rough, damaged, or otherwise problematic – indeed, the cataloguer of the Anton coin astutely noted that the variety is "never fully struck, never ideally centered, and never with choice surfaces, Vlack 2-71A is one of those die marriages where compromise is essential to find a fitting example." The variety also features in two amazing error coins – a 2-71A struck over a 1774 Vlack 8-74A (!) which we sold to the late Mike Ringo which brought nearly \$3,200 when sold in 2009, and as a host coin struck over with Maris 57-n New Jersey copper dies, sold in the Anton collection for \$22,800 in 2019. Punch and style-linked to a number of other Machin's varieties, the authors of the book suggest these dies were made by Walter Mould, with James Atlee's assistance, and struck at the brewery mint. Short of the reappearance of the Newman or Anton coins, this example will prove nearly impossible to improve – especially at just.....\$900

Don Partrick's Choice VF Vlack 7-72B
A Condition Census example of a High Rarity-6 variety
The only GEORGIUS legend obverse die in the series



52. 1772 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 7-72B, W-7730. High Rarity-6. GEORGIUS in obverse legend instead of GEORGIUS, Group I. Choice VF, in an NGC slab where this is graded VF30, an accurate grade. This is the Donald Groves Partrick specimen, sold in March 2021, where this was Lot 15121 and was catalogued as:

1772 Machin's Mills Halfpenny, Vlack 7-72B, W-7730, High R.6, VF30 NGC. Like the Vlack 5-72A die combination, these Vlack 7-72B coins are attributed to Samuel Atlee's "brewery mint" in New York City, from dies by Walter Mould and James Atlee. The authors of *The History and Coinage of Machin's Mills* report: "James' father, Samuel, had immigrated to New York City in late 1783 after a failed distillery business and marriage. Samuel reopened the large Harrison Brewery located just north of the city along the eastern shore of the Hudson River and used it as a porter brewery."

Only about a dozen examples are known with the best survivors grading in the VF25 to XF45 range. A pleasing olive-brown example with orange-tan highpoints on each side. Slight planchet roughness is evident at the central obverse and reverse. An area of steel toning is noted at the upper reverse. *Ex: John J. Ford, Jr. (8/8/1983); Donald G. Partrick.*

The Heritage cataloguer does not even note the importance of the GEORGIUS legend – which was used on early regal George II coppers, but never on those of George III. The GEORGIUS legend was used only on this obverse die in the entire Machin's Mills halfpenny series – even the 1747-dated George II type Vlack 1-47A uses the GEORGIUS legend. The obverse here was also paired with a 1774-dated Machin's reverse to create the rare Vlack 7-74A; the GEORGIUS legend is a distinct type within the Machin's series. The slab company incorrectly calls this

“GEORGIVS” on the label, despite the legend clearly reading otherwise – but at least they got the attribution and provenance correct.

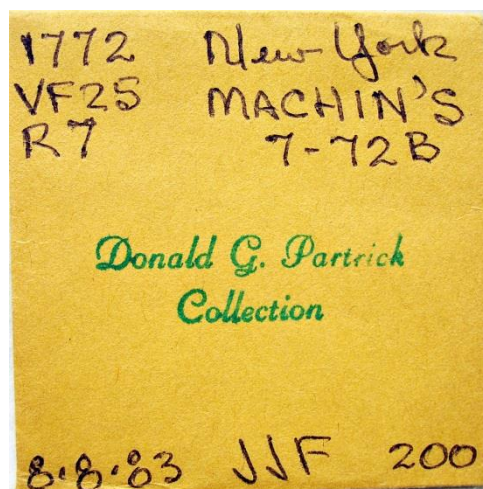
The authors of the book note the Condition Census for Vlack 7-72B as VF25 to EF-45, and their plate coin is certainly one of the nicest known. The Mike Ringo coin was better than the VF it was graded, but had significant planchet fissures, and Anton’s coin was slightly more worn than this. The Eric Newman coin was only graded Fine, but had lovely color and very choice obverse surfaces, though the reverse was pitted.

The only example nicer than the coin offered here to appear at auction in the last dozen or more years is, not surprisingly, the Syd Martin coin, which was graded EF40, though it did have a scratch on the obverse bust. There are a handful of VF’s in both the Stack’s Bowers and Heritage archives, none of which are nicer overall than this specimen. This rare variety and type has long been appreciated by collectors, and bidding has often been strong when they appear for sale – note the \$3,120 hammer price for one graded just Fine 12 in Stack’s Bowers April 2022 auction or the \$2,640 for another Fine 12 in Heritage’s auction four months later.

As noted in the Heritage description, Don Partrick purchased this coin from John J. Ford, Jr in 1983. Despite acquiring one of the best collections of colonials from the Ryder-Boyd and Brand collections, Ford only sporadically added varieties and upgrades – and he never really understood the importance of the Machin’s Mills issues, despite having an otherwise amazing collection of New York coinages. This may be understandable, as while C. Wyllys Betts first made the American connection back in 1886, it was done in a talk and an obscure publication afterwards, and it wasn’t until the mid-1960s when Bob Vlack and others rediscovered the series, and Vlack put out two different sets of attribution plates, the later one with the numbers still used today. But Ford did actively pursue other colonial areas later in life, most notably his French Colonies pieces which were underappreciated at the time, allowing him to acquire some very choice and rare coins for bargain prices – had his interest in Machin’s been similarly stoked, he could have done the same with this series in the 1960s and 70s, but for some reason it never was – even though his friend-turned-enemy Eric Newman collected them. While Ford didn’t collect the Machin’s Mills halfpennies, he seems to have had no problem selling them, likely whenever he cherry-picked one from some unsuspecting dealer or collector – though even then, he didn’t go for the jugular in pricing, and he charged Partrick a very reasonable \$200 for this example in 1983.

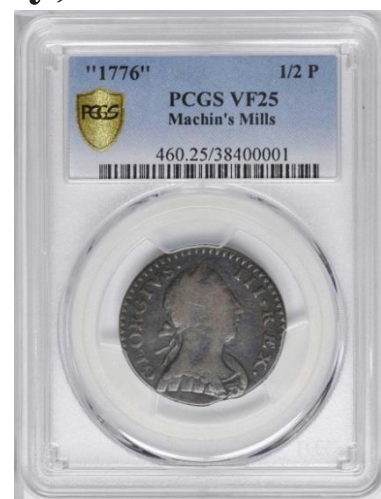
A special opportunity to acquire a Condition Census example of a very rare variety, one that is provenance back to one of the most famous colonial collections ever, and a coin that will likely not be improved upon. Sure seems like a bargain at.....\$4,000

In the NGC slab illustrated, noting the Partrick collection provenance, and with Partrick’s original handwritten envelope (illustrated below).



The Magic 1776 Date

Vlack 6-76A Machin's Mills Halfpenny, PCGS VF25



53. 1776 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 6-76A, W-7790. Rarity-4. PCGS Graded VF25, a very pleasing Choice Very Fine example of this ever-popular issue, one of just a handful of American coins to bear the magic 1776 date (even if it is likely that none of the coins with that date were actually struck in that pivotal year of American history). This is a bold example, the legends full with the individual letters all sharp, the all-important date bold, fully on the planchet, and with a full row of denticles framing it below. The design detail is quite strong for this “tall head” obverse, the dies were both deeply cut and there was never enough metal available to flow to the deepest part of either die – so the wreath on the obverse bust is never seen fully brought up, and there is usually weakness at the center of the reverse. The present example is better than most we have seen, the obverse bust showing strong mailing and some face and hair detail, the reverse figure with some drapery detail and bold shield and branch as well. Lovely medium olive with lighter devices, the surfaces hard to the eye and with the bare minimum of marks from circulation. There is a small planchet clip at the base of the obverse which touches nothing but may be useful for provenance tracing. An interesting variety, two examples are known struck over counterfeit 1709 Spanish pistareens and one is known overstruck on a 1785 Immune Columbia copper, effectively proving these were backdated, though of course the Machin's Mills mint was only in operation from 1787 to 1790. Really quite lovely, detail-wise not far off of Syd Martin's VF30 which hammered at \$4,320 last year (while his AU brought \$6,000). The finest that has appeared at auction in the last 30 years appears to be the Garrett-Partrick coin, slabbed as EF40, but graded AU in the Garrett sale – the latter grade likely correct since that piece hammered at an amazing \$16,800 in March 2021! Even solid EFs bring strong money, with the 2021 C4 sale coin in that grade bringing \$4,320. The second Partrick piece in VF35 hammered at \$3,120 last year as well, and Eric Newman's VF30 brought \$4,560 in November 2017. This is a coin that the collector will cherish and not worry about upgrading – and with the strong 1776 date it is especially pleasing. It is also priced significantly less than recent auction records for comparable coins at just.....\$1,600

This example purchased a decade ago from dealer Clem Schettino; his original envelope was lost during the slabbing process, but at the time he called it “the nicest I have owned.”

A GORGEOUS PCGS XF45 VLACK 17-87B

Ex Bill Anton, Tony Terranova Collections

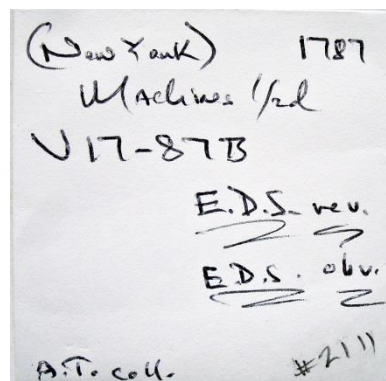


54. 1787 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 17-87B, W-7910. Rarity-2. Group II. PCGS Graded EF45, an accurate grade. This boldly struck example was part of the Bill Anton collection, appearing as Lot 4168 of the Stack's Bowers November 2020 auction of that part of his collection. It was ably described there as:

122.4 grains. Olive tan and smoothly worn, this well-made 17-87B shows a bold strike and a complete lack of planchet flaws, as is normal for extant examples of the die marriage. A touch of ruddy buildup is noted in field below X of REX, easily overlooked unless carefully rotated in the light. Struck from the usually seen die state with a die break connecting the initial I of III seamlessly to the rim, making the letter appear much taller than it really was intended; the reverse shows the slight, dash-like cracks between the digits in the date. One of the more pleasing survivors we have seen of the die marriage.

A choice enough example of this early die state that it was added to the Tony Terranova collection (accompanied by his distinct handwritten envelope), presumably sold when he upgraded the die state. While not a rare variety, this example falls comfortably into the Condition Census of EF40 to MS60 detailed by the authors of the new book, and will be quite difficult to improve – the only appreciably nicer one to come up in some time is the AU58 in Stack's Bowers April 2022 auction that sold for \$6,600. While certainly not as nice as that, this pleasing coin, with impeccable provenance, is a lot more affordable at.....\$2,500

In the PCGS slab pictured, accompanied by Tony Terranova's envelope (illustrated below.)



SYD MARTIN'S VLACK 19-87C

PCGS GRADED AU55!



55. 1787 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 19-87C, W-7940. Rarity-2. Group III. PCGS Graded AU-55, an accurate grade. This is the phenomenal Syd Martin example, sold as Lot 1169 of the Stack's Bowers March 2023 portion of his collection, where it was described as:

111.4 grains. A very attractive high grade example with choice golden-brown color and high quality, slightly frosty surfaces. Boldly struck throughout and just about perfectly centered. There is only a slight trace of wear across the high points. Close inspection will reveal nothing other than a few extremely thin planchet striations and trivial natural roughness. One of the most common varieties of Machin's Mills halfpennies and ideal for the type collector. Features the prolific reverse 87C die that was used on six different counterfeit halfpenny varieties as well as the RR-13 Vermont at the very end of its life. *Provenance: From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Chris Stevens, January 2011.*

A really superb example of the variety, at the high end of the Condition Census, which the Howes-Rosen-Trudgen book lists as EF45 to AU55, though we note a pair of NGC-graded AU58 coins are noted in the Heritage archives, one the original Vlack coin, later in the Partrick collection which brought \$4,560 in 2021, and a similarly-graded one also ex Partrick that had a noticeable central obverse planchet flaw. A PCGS MS62 sold by Stack's Bowers in August 2016 has, to our eyes, much less attractive surfaces, though very slightly sharper. We note that PCGS chose this coin to illustrate the variety in their online population report. The provenance to the Syd Martin collection is even more special – Syd was the only person to ever complete the series, albeit only for a short time before a new variety was found – and we all know that had he lived, he would have found that variety too. About as picture-perfect a Machin's Mills halfpenny that you will ever find.....\$4.000

In the special PCGS slab for the Syd Martin collection, accompanied by Syd's original handwritten envelope.

And a Lovely NCG AU50 1788 Machin's



56. 1788 Machin's Mills Halfpenny. Vlack 23-88A, W-8100. Rarity-2. Group III. NGC Graded AU-50, an accurate grade. This pleasing coin was part of the Richard Rossa collection, sold by Stack's Bowers as part of the 2021 C4 convention where it was Lot 2066, described as:

Handsome medium brown patina with blended olive-copper throughout. This is a hard, tight example with only minor roughness to the texture, much of it as made, and no significant marks or other blemishes. Well centered in strike with universally bold detail throughout the design. One of the more common entries in the Machin's Mills halfpenny series, and popular for type purposes, Vlack 23-88A is believed to have been struck from dies engraved by James Atlee.

Provenance: From the Collection of Richard Rossa, formerly of Rossa and Tanenbaum.

While within the Howes-Rosen-Trudgen Condition Census range for the variety, which was published as EF40 to AU50, we note a small number of coins that grade higher, including the incredible pair of Stepney Hoard examples that sold with Eric Newman's collection, both NGC-graded MS63 which brought \$18,000 and \$10,200 in 2017, the Garrett-Partrick coin which was NGC-graded MS64, and brought \$9,000 in 2021, and the Keller coin graded MS61 by NGC and brought \$4,025 in 2010, though it was not as visually attractive as these others. A PCGS-graded MS62 was in the Stack's Bowers March 2024 sale, realizing \$8,400, and there was also a PCGS-graded AU58 in the Anton collection sold in November 2020 which was quite sharp but with surfaces that presented some roughness. Regardless of how a revised Condition Census maps out, a very pleasing AU50 coin will likely be within or very close to it, especially a coin like this without the surface roughness often found on the variety, and free of any distracting marks from circulation. While Richard Rossa didn't actively collect colonials, ceding those to his business partner Steve Tannenbaum, he did put back a few "special" coins that he found visually attractive – one can see why this piece was included in that group! A very pleasing example of the variety and type, one that will quadruple in price for an upgrade to a full Unc.....\$2,500

Is Choice Good a grade?
It is for this affordable Fugio copper!



57. 1787 Fugio Cent. Pointed Rays. Newman 13-N, W-6845. Rarity-5. STATES UNITED, 4 Cinquefoils. Choice Good, a perfectly fitting grade for this extremely well-worn example, though one that retains enough detail to be completely attributable. The obverse shows the right side of the sundial, hints of a few letters of FUGIO and more of the date, while most of MIND YOUR is visible at the base, as well as the tops of much of BUSINESS – for those of you having difficulty attributing lower grade Fugios, this latter bit makes it much simpler when visible, as the position of the stop between MIND and YOUR, as well as the location of the letters in those words in relation to the letters below will usually make attribution easy. The reverse is a bit stronger, showing all thirteen interlocked rings, while the lettering at the center is nearly completely worn away – which would normally make attribution difficult, but the N reverse has a series of tiny engraver marks that connect link eleven to the rim, aptly nicknamed eyelashes since that is really what they look like, so the attribution here is secure. While the piece is extensively worn, it is remarkably free of damage – yes, there are the expected light marks from a long life in circulation, but no major scratches, edge dings, or other manmade defect. Nice lighter brown, the surfaces hard and free of any sort of planchet roughness or flaw. One reason to do a list of “pretty” coins is to show that pretty can come in ALL grades – from choice mint state, down to extremely well-worn, and this coin clearly shows that something graded in the single digits can still be attractive. It’s no secret that Fugio coppers have been one of the hottest areas in all of colonials since the slab services recognized them as the first coins struck by the national American government, changing their appeal from mostly colonial collectors to all collectors of American coinage, and especially those who collect early large cents and half cents. This, predictably, altered the supply-demand ratio, causing prices to double or triple almost overnight. Finding an affordable Fugio copper these days is very difficult – and finding an affordable, completely attributable one that is also attractive for its grade is nearly impossible. But here it is, a perfect coin for the collector on a budget, priced at just.....\$225

A Sharp Newman 14-O Fugio Copper



58. 1787 Fugio Cent. Pointed Rays. Newman 14-O, W-6875. Rarity-4. STATES UNITED, 4 Cinquefoils. Choice Very Fine, a lovely well-struck example, with just light, clean, wear, and pretty much a perfect mid-range example of the variety or type. The obverse has a bold FUGIO and date, the sundial sharp and showing all the Roman numerals on its face, and the sun showing its face as well. MIND YOUR is sharp, as is USINE of BUSINESS, but due to centering the first and last letters of that word are off the planchet. The reverse is similarly strong, with all thirteen interlocked rings bold, and the STATES UNITED and WE ARE ONE legends at the center all strong. Rich, medium brown, the surfaces looking hard and a bit glossy to the eye, while a glass shows a light roughness that is not bad at all, especially given the choice color. No real damage from circulation such as nicks or scratches, and a rather handsome circulated Fugio. While the Newman 14-O variety is not rare, it is one that is surprisingly difficult to find choice, especially in grades of VF and higher – indeed, many of those graded VF and EF have significant flaws, roughness, or other problems which do not affect the grade, but do affect their eye appeal. A quick look at the auction archives shows strong interest whenever choice examples of the variety are sold – even before the Fugios morphed from colonials to the first coin struck by the American government! John Ford's VF brought \$1,920 in the 2019 C4 sale (a bit of a bargain as it was the plate coin in the original Newman monograph on the series – a telling comment on condition rarity indeed), and the "Star of Texas" coin, a rougher VF, brought \$1,560 in April 2022. The Syd Martin coin, ex Hancock collection, was a lovely EF, and brought \$2,200 when sold last year – and was the highest-graded example sold in the last decade, when an AU with some heavy roughness was sold in the 2012 C4 auction. The Newman 14-O variety was not one found in the Bank of New York hoard, accounting for their rarity in higher grades today, and indeed the Rob Retz Condition Census had no Uncirculated specimens known, with just one AU, three EF's, and the rest of the census consisting of VF coins. This is the only use of the "O" reverse in the Fugio series. A very pleasing mid-grade example, with excellent eye appeal – this one would be difficult for even the advanced Fugio specialist to appreciably upgrade!.....\$1,250

Syd Martin's Incredible 1781 North American Token *PCGS AU53, ex Lawrence Stack Collection*



59. "1781" (ca. 1820) North American Token. W-13980. Rarity-2. PCGS Graded AU-53, though really any grade up to MS63 would have been warranted. This is Syd Martin's example, the nicest that he was ever able to find = and he considered it a full Uncirculated piece, as noted on his envelope which accompanies the coin. When sold as Lot 1272 of the 2023 C4 sale, this was catalogued by Stack's Bowers as:

Though dated 1781, the North American token is thought to actually date to the 1810-1820 period, as evidenced by ca.1820 Canadian tokens of similar design and fabric as well as punch linkage (discovered by Doug Winter, now known as a U.S. gold coin specialist) to Irish tokens from the second decade of the 19th century. Winter also theorized that the 1781 date commemorated Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, though we find this strange for a token whose chief circulation was in Canada, the land to which loyalists escaped the Revolution! This is a superior example of the type, with luster and golden-brown patina, and though graded AU-53, it compares favorably to examples in the AU-55 to AU-58 range. *Provenance: From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.*

A common token, in decidedly uncommon condition. While neither grading service has certified a fully Uncirculated one, this and a few others known that have been graded AU do not show any actual wear, just a bit flatness of strike on the seated figure's head – detail which is never found fully struck up. The highest grade example slabbed is a PCGS AU58 that brought nearly \$4,500 in a 2017 Heritage sale – and that piece was distinctly weaker than this one, which shows more detail in the seated figure's gown, and the hull and sails of the ship – certainly a candidate for regrading! An AU58 in brass, in the same firm's July 2006 auction brought a similar price and it too was far weaker than this specimen. The fact that Syd considered this a full Unc., and had the resources to upgrade if he saw a nicer one, speaks volumes. This is the finest North American token we have ever seen, and would comfortably fit into the finest colonial collection.....\$1,750

In the special Syd Martin PCGS holder as pictured, accompanied by Syd's original handwritten envelope where he calls this Unc., and the original round ticket from Larry Stack.

AN ATTRACTIVE “1778” NON-DEPENDENS STATUS

Only 100 Made in Copper



60. "1778" (1860s) Non Dependens Status Copper. Robinson Copy. Kenney-6, W-15250. Copper, Choice Uncirculated, a lovely example of this piece, whose history was long shrouded in mystery. Boldly struck, everything sharp, the surfaces prooflike, with some flashes of original red in the legends, and some darker toning around parts of the periphery. In the 1850s an “original” of this design was found – though it was not a struck coin, it was a piece engraved on what was likely a regal George III British copper, using the central designs of that coin as a template and carefully engraving new legends, changing the King’s bust to something that was then called that of a native warrior and, more surprisingly, the seated female Britannia figure on the reverse changed into a male Indian. The original piece was in the Winslow Howard collection, and sold in the 1862 Finotti sale by W. Elliot Woodward, where it realized \$70 – more than a Higley copper or a 1792 silver center cent in the same auction! The piece disappeared for nearly a century and was last in the collection of Byron White before being sold to Q. David Bowers, then sold in Stack’s Bowers June 2020 sale of his collection where it brought \$9,000 – certainly one of the highest prices ever for what is essentially a “whatsit,” an engraved fantasy coin! But the fact that it was not an actual struck coin didn’t deter 19th century numismatists in the least. Shortly after the discovery and publication of the engraved piece – which immediately had the name Paul Revere attached to it without any evidence whatsoever – George Hampden Lovett cut dies for Alfred S. Robinson, who made these struck copies. There were 100 copper and six silver strikes produced. These all had “COPY” on the obverse below the bust, though on some examples that word has been removed with varying degrees of skill, and we have seen a couple that were artificially worn as well, in what was surely a vain attempt to make a struck copy into an original that never actually existed in struck form. Always popular, and though stuck well after the colonial period, it is a piece that most collectors will include due to both the date it bears, and its interesting history.....\$375

The expertly written lot description of the engraved specimen in Stack’s Bowers June 2020 auction, Lot 253, is well worth reading for a more detailed background on that mysterious piece.

A Lovely Circulated 1794 Talbot Allum & Lee Cent



61. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent. With NEW YORK. Fuld-2, W-8570. Rarity-1. Large & on Reverse, Lettered Edge. Extremely Fine, a lightly circulated example of this popular type, with excellent eye appeal. Well struck for the most part, a tiny bit of weakness at the left middle of the ship's hull and the waves right below, a typical spot for weakness as it is directly opposite the deeper part of the obverse design with the bale and dress of the standing figure of commerce (this variety struck medal turn instead of coin turn). The legends are full, the individual letters all strong, as is the date at the base of the obverse. Very attractive light tan, the surfaces are hard, and with only the most trivial marks from circulation. Well-hidden above the flag flying from the highest mast is a small circular punch mark, ancient and toned-down to the surface color and exceedingly easy to miss – so easy in fact that we didn't notice it when we bought this token! Struck in England, the Talbot's come dated 1794 and 1795, with several dies for each date that speak of fairly large mintages. These were struck right in the middle of the "Conder Token Craze" in England, though their production for New York merchants prevented Dalton & Hamer from listing it with the 18th Century Provincial Tokens in their book. But, being tokens of the era, they were popular with British collectors and special pieces were made, likely for sale – for the regular issues, silver strikes are known, as are plain edges and a couple completely irrelevant edges which did appear on other Conder tokens of the era. Obverse dies for both the 1794 and 1795 dates (the side that didn't say NEW YORK) were muled with seven different Conder token dies to create rarities for collectors (though two of these mules, with dies for John Howard and Earl Howe were made in greater quantities and put into circulation in England). Despite having the same obverse dies used, the mules are not listed in the *Redbook*, just as the regular issues are not listed in Dalton & Hamer. But D&H do list all the mules, and that run also includes special things likely made for collectors as well – brass and tin strikes (oddly no silver strikes are known for the mules), plain edges, and one variety with a unique edge different from the rest. These, thankfully, are well-detailed in the Whitman *Encyclopedia*, with all but one variety illustrated and a detailed listing of the edges. In the most recent issue of *The C4 Journal* Mark Vitunic makes some interesting observations on the series, and includes a plate illustrating the die linkage of the tokens, including the one obverse not shown in the Whitman book. Always a popular issue, the 1794s usually seen with light wear, while the 1795s are more commonly seen in Uncirculated grades.....\$325

A Very Attractive Earl Howe/Talbot Mule



62. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent / Earl Howe Mule. Fuld Mule-3, Breen 1047, Dalton & Hamer Hampshire 25, W-8710. Rarity-4. PAYABLE IN LONDON edge. Choice About Uncirculated, a lovely example of this scarce and illogical muling, pairing the obverse of a 1794-dated Talbot, Alum & Lee cent, with the reverse of an Earl Howe Conder token which is broken and badly buckled. As always found, this is weakly struck in the centers – the coiner likely reducing the striking pressure so as not to shatter the Howe die, which was clearly on its last legs. Attractive dark tan fields, the Talbot side with a swathe of darker toning at the lower right, the surfaces glossy. No real marks from circulation, and this is likely as struck. Indeed the three slabbed specimens of this variety all show the exact same detail as this, and realistically are all technically Uncirculated specimens, with grading by surface and eye appeal giving the nod between the two grade levels (and thus likely to change every time it is graded!). A slabbed MS63, found in Heritage’s May 2008 sale, and truly deserving of the grade, with ample luster, sold for a jaw-dropping \$6,235, presumably to a registry set collector; the only other slabbed 63 brought \$3,120 in the Stack’s Bowers April 2022 sale, these being the highest graded examples slabbed. AU’s tend to bring under \$1,000 yet show nearly the exact detail. It has long been assumed that these were made for collectors of the day, and there are a handful of pieces that grade EF and above. But the vast majority of specimens seem to grade VF and lower, and did spend time in circulation. It is true that late-18th century British collectors did go gaga over mules, and there are a couple Talbot, Alum & Lee mules that are almost always found in choice grades, such as the York Cathedral, Blofield Calvary, and Stork mules. But one wonders if contemporary collectors were as eager to add the Howe and John Howard mule (offered below) to their cabinets, as they were weakly struck, from broken dies. Perhaps sales of these were slim, and the coiner just released the pieces he couldn’t sell at a premium into circulation, thus accounting for the circulated specimens seen today. The last comparable AU we recall seeing at auction was the AU55 in Stack’s Bowers January 2013 sale, which brought just under \$850. This is priced at.....\$700

Please read the intro to this list for a special Conder Token Collectors Club offer!

A Very Choice John Howard/Talbot Mule



63. 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee Cent / John Howard Mule. Fuld Mule-5, Breen 1049, Dalton & Hamer Hampshire 56, W-8720. Rarity-4. PAYABLE IN LONDON edge. With engraving after. Choice About Uncirculated, a well-struck example of this variety, with the same likely backstory as the above piece – initially made for collectors who may have balked at paying a premium for weakly struck pieces from a broken Conder die, and the unsold remainder then released to circulation. This, however, is likely one of the pieces that did make its way into an 18th century collectors cabinet, as is very boldly struck on both sides, and with excellent color and surface quality as well. The John Howard side shows just very light diebreaks in front of his face, and just a touch of light die spalling in the same area, certainly one of the earlier strikings for this unusual mule. John Howard has strong hair and facial details, as well as a sharp jacket with just the shoulder detail not brought up. The Talbot side here is also much sharper than usually seen, with much of the facial features visible, and just the usual weakness at the front of her lower body. Very pleasing medium olive-brown surfaces that are hard, and quite glossy, with just a few microscopic marks – far better than normally found. Of note, this is also struck medal turn, as was the case with the 1794 Talbot offered two lots earlier on this list. While about the same overall rarity as the Earl Howe mule offered above, there seem to be a few more of this variety in higher grades – perhaps because the die damage to the Conder token obverse isn't as bad, and thus more were sold to contemporary collectors. The nicest slabbed example was an MS63 in Heritage's March 2009 sale that sold for \$4,025 – and which shows pretty much the exact same detail as this one (and all the other AU's out there). Like the Howe mule there are also a large proportion known in VF and lower grades, and occasionally found well-worn into the VG level! Quite pleasing.....\$500

The Talbot mules are listed by Dalton & Hamer in their work on Conder tokens, though they do not list the original Talbot, Alum & Lee pieces as those state New York (on all but one reverse) and were clearly not made for the British market, even though they were struck in England, and have an edge legend that was used on some Conder tokens. The Redbook in the United States does the opposite, listing the 1794-5 Talbot pieces, but not even mentioning the various mules! As they share some of the same dies, and were struck at the same place, American and British collectors should be interested in both the original issues and the mules. Things like the Kentucky tokens and various early Washington issues are listed in D&H and collected as Conders, and there is no reason the Talbots should not be as well!

**A Gorgeous About Uncirculated Washington Unity States
One of the Finest Known, PCGS AU55**

Ex Ted Craige collection



64. 1783 Washington Unity States Cent. Baker 1, Vlack 27-W, Breen 1188, Fuld WA.NC.1783.1, Musante GW-104. PCGS Graded AU55, a fitting grade. This is the TED CRAIGE specimen and appeared in the Stack's Bowers sale of his collection in January, 2013 where it was Lot 11469, plated and described as follows:

"1783" (Circa 1820) Washington Unity States Cent. Baker-1, W-10130. Rarity-1. AU-55 (PCGS). 119.5 grains. Deep golden-tan surfaces are hard and glossy in appearance, and low magnification does little to dispel the first impression. Usual planchet striations, here at the bottom of the obverse affecting the date, and around the rim in several areas on the reverse. Choice for the grade both physically and aesthetically.

Provenance: From the Ted L. Craige Collection. Paper envelope included.

Despite its 1783 date (and the honor of being the first piece listed in the 1885 Baker work on Washingtonia), there is no way this variety could have been struck in that year, as the reverse design closely resembles the 1794 large cents, with the word UNITY substituted for UNITED – probably an effort to evade anti-counterfeiting laws, much as some of the later Hard Time Tokens issues carry a tiny “NOT” over the denomination of “ONE CENT.” A choice example for the specialist or type collector, and certainly one of the finest known – something Ted Craige recognized over 50 years ago since he noted it was C.C. (Condition Census) on his envelope! While there are a few that have been slabbed as fully Uncirculated they do not have the same color and gloss as the present specimen - see the example in the 2010 C4 sale for instance, which was slabbed as MS63 despite what looks like rub, heavy striations and some verdigris spots clearly removed from either side, or Anton’s MS61 that was heavily rough on the obverse! If those grade at that levels, this one should definitely be considered a good candidate for resubmission as it is a far nicer coin than either of those. The eye appeal on this specimen is superb, it will not be a coin that is upgraded. Ted Craige’s original handwritten envelope is included.....\$1,400

In the PCGS slab pictured, accompanied by Ted Craige’s original handwritten envelope.

A Nice, Lightly Circulated Washington Draped Bust Cent



65. "1783" (Circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Baker-2, Vlack 13-J, Musante GW-106, W-10300. Rarity-1. No Button, plain edge. Extremely Fine. Boldly struck as expected for the grade, the legend, date and design details all razor sharp, with just the faintest light rub on the high points of either side, from a brief time in circulation before being plucked out and saved by some collector – though whether in America or England is of course unknown. The legends, date, and design details are all sharp. There are a few trivial marks from circulation, including a hairline scratch on the obverse, extending across George's own hairline, and a few light edge tics at the lower obverse, while the reverse is particularly choice for the grade. The obverse is a light russet color, the reverse a deeper mahogany, the color difference most likely from storage in a collector's cabinet for a century or more, the reverse side facing upwards and toning more as a result.

With the exception of the Georgivs Triumpho token, the 1783-dated Washington coppers were all made a few decades later than the date they bear, though because of that 18th century date, they are all avidly collected as part of the colonial Washington series. They also seem to have been made to circulate, not to go into collector's cabinets, and there are far more of each of the varieties grading under VF than there are grading over AU. But, despite the United States legend, these were all made in England where the collector instinct was strong, and some invariably did end up in British cabinets, likely alongside the ever-popular Conder tokens. We note the late Skip Smith's AU55 bringing \$720 in the May 2024 Stack's Bowers auction, and Syd Martin's AU bringing the same price two years earlier. This piece has nearly the same detail as both of those coins, but available for well under half those prices. A pleasing coin, with excellent eye appeal.....\$325



A Rarer Variety of Washington Military Bust Cent



66. "1783" (ca. 1820) Washington Military Bust Copper. Musante GW-109E, Vlack 5-D, Baker-4, W-10190. Rarity-6 or so for the variety. Large Military Bust. Choice Very Fine, the obverse closer to a full EF grade. Well struck, the legends and date all sharp, including the small designer's initials at the bottom of the reverse, which often come weak. Washington's bust shows strong detail in his face and uniform, including the epaulets which are the highest point of the design and wear quickly. On the reverse the seated figure is a bit flatly struck at the face and dress detail on her leg, and with just a bit more there this would have been an EF coin. This is a rarer sub-variety of this popular type, with the figure sitting on a rock that has a speckled design to it, the only reverse die in this series with that feature which makes it easy to attribute! The new Musante reference includes photos and descriptions of the various die varieties for this and the other 1783-dated issues (reprinting the earlier descriptions by Robert Vlack in *The Colonial Newsletter*, though with much better photographs), the information also contained in Neil Musante's excellent work, where he calls this particular die variety "rare," which certainly seems the case, with the Stack's Bowers archives showing just a half dozen sales of the variety, ranging from a bent VF to uncirculated, while the Heritage archives contain just one example of the variety. These large military bust issues seem to have circulated, as the average grade for examples seem to be in the VF range (and are known worn down all the way to the About Good level!), with AUs quite difficult to find and true Uncs extremely rare – not the survival pattern one would expect if these had been made for sale to collectors. The question of where and when they circulated has not been fully answered. The 1820s had a plentiful supply of half and large cents in the US, and lighter weight coins (even those purporting to be colonial) would not have been needed in commerce. While they could certainly have been used during the Hard Times era in the US in 1837, this was a good decade or two after they were struck, and where were they during that time? This was not a small coinage issue either, with 11 obverse and 7 reverse dies used to make 10 different varieties. The image of Washington and the UNITED STATES legend on the reverse would mean that even if these were made in England, they likely weren't made to circulate there...the colonial series has many mysteries to solve, even two centuries or more after the coins were struck!.....\$275

An Inexpensive Washington Double Head Cent



67. Undated (ca. 1820) Washington Double-Head Cent. Musante GW-110, Baker-6, W-11200. Plain Edge. Very Fine, pretty much perfect for the grade. Well struck, the WASHINGTON side slightly sharper than the ONE CENT side, as often found, the legends are complete on both sides, and both busts show all the detail expected for the grade. There is noticeable die swelling at the lower right of the WASHINGTON side and lower left on the other side – this is NOT any sort of edge damage (and the two areas are not opposite each other, as this is struck coin turn), but rather both dies on their way to failure, and this failure may be why a second die was cut (though that issue, W-11210, is extremely rare with just two or three specimens currently known). Light olive, almost a bit brassy in color, the surfaces hard and with minimal marks from circulation, making for a coin that is choice for the grade. Despite being worn – and most of this type are, to one degree or another – the coin retains nice eye appeal due to its clean and even use in commerce. Where and when these circulated is anyone's guess – though likely made in England, the Washington image and cent denomination would have not made them obvious choices for British circulation, while the circa 1820 issue date would have been in an era where there was generally sufficient, better-weight copper half cents and cents in circulation in America – though there were certainly parts of the U.S. that did not have sufficient small change. But these, and the 1783-dated Washington issues offered above definitely did circulate, as they tend to be in VF or lower grades. I have not seen any sort of contemporary notice of these in commerce, and a search of newspapers in the 1820s may yield some interesting information on them. They would, of course, have continued to circulate through the Hard Times token period, when Federal copper coins were hoarded, and that later circulation may account for the many examples of the type that grade VG or less. The more we think we know about colonials, the less we actually do! This pleasing mid-grade example is just.....\$175

In a handwritten flip from the late Don Valenziano, with his eBay power seller stamp on the rear flap – another friend gone far too soon.

Syd Martin's Very Late Die State Georgivs Triumpho Token
*Struck right before the extremely rare mule with a
counterfeit 1767-dated Danish 24 skilling coin!*



68. 1783 Georgivs Triumpho Token. Musante GW-54, Baker-7, Breen-1184., Fuld WA.1783.1, Atkins 232, plain edge. **Rarity-3. PCGS Graded VF20**, this is one of the Syd Martin coins, struck from extremely late states of both the obverse and reverse dies. This appeared as Lot 2059 of the October 2022 sale of that portion of Syd's collection where it was described as:

27.9 mm. 112.7 grains. Glossy medium to light brown. Clearly a specimen that saw more circulation wear than those offered in the previous lots, with a few superficial marks noted under magnification. However, a significant part of the "wear" is probably fairly assigned to the failed state of the dies. Spalling and sinking in the obverse fields is fairly well pronounced, while the usual breaks, aggressive spalling and sinking of the reverse are well developed and give the piece a rather rustic appearance, as on all seen of this late die state. The major design elements remain clear, and the condition is quite satisfying overall. *Provenance: From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jeff Rock, via eBay, April 2009.*

While not the highest-grade of Syd's Georgivs Triumpho tokens, what excited Syd most about this piece was that it was the latest obverse die state he had seen – about the same state as when this obverse was paired with the obverse of a counterfeit 1767 Danish West Indies 24 skilling coin, of which there are two examples known, one appearing in the lot following this coin in Syd's auction. Prior to the discovery of that mule, neither this obverse or reverse were known in any other combination, and it was assumed that both dies failed and were tossed on the scrap heap. Given the large reverse diebreaks it is likely that die did have such a fate after shattering, but the obverse was given a very brief new life with this extremely rare, extremely late muling. The maker of the Georgivs Triumpho pieces is unknown, and its issue likely predates that of the British Conder token series. Was the same maker also producing counterfeit Danish coins, frugally pairing together two failing dies to get a few more pieces into circulation? Or did a trade in used dies cause two failing obverses from different mints to somehow end up together at

a completely different counterfeit mint, closer to the late 1790s when any usable dies were used to pound out whatever available planchet stock was on hand prior to the Soho Mint coinage driving all lightweight counterfeits out of circulation? We may never know the answer, but a good place to start would be in a detailed study of punch linkage with 1767-dated counterfeit Danish coins (there are far more than just a single variety of that date known), and comparing those with the punches on the Georgivs Triumpho, as well as punches used on counterfeit British and Irish coppers, Conder tokens, and perhaps even evasion coppers – a Herculean task indeed, but one that may yield some surprising results. The two known examples with muled dies are both heavily circulated, and both were found in England, and while this might argue for a production earlier than the late 1790s, there are many well-circulated British evasion coppers that were absolutely made in the 1796-8 era and clearly saw extensive use, even after the Soho Mint coppers were rolling off the presses – some of the more rural areas in England, and most of Ireland were not well-supplied with the better-made Soho coinage for a decade or more after they were struck. These mules were certainly not made for collectors, given the low grades of the two known examples, and most likely circulated alongside counterfeits, Conder tokens, and evasions, in the mishmash of coppers used in commerce in England of the 1780s and 90s.

One of the more curious issues, the obverse bust used on this piece looks nothing like Washington, and closely resembles the bust of George III on regal Irish coppers of 1775-1782 – but by the 1783 date on this issue King George was certainly NOT triumphant, his troops having been defeated in 1781 and a peace treaty signed in Paris in 1783, the year this coin bears (and probably struck in, unlike all the other 1783-dated Washington coinages). The reverse is the same general motif found on American state coppers, as well as regal and counterfeit British halfpence, with the exception of a cage/screen/tapestry over her lower torso, each corner of which is anchored by a French *fleur-de-lis*, a detail that acknowledges the help of France in the American Revolution. Mike Ringo showed punch linkage to several different counterfeit 1775 British halfpence and the style of the bust and legends tie it directly to British and Irish counterfeit halfpennies and this issue actually serves as the anchor (or Head of House) for an entire family of these counterfeits now known as the GT family. This Washington issue is also listed as an evasion copper (Atkins 232), and may have circulated in England along with other evasion issues – apparently the irony of England's loss of its colonies was not noticed (or at least not recorded) by those who used these in commerce.

A fascinating coin given its extremely late die state – we have not seen any Georgivs Triumpho in a later one, and it was a coin that Syd gloated a bit over buying on eBay for a bargain price, because the person cataloguing it didn't recognize how special it was. That, of course, was me – and I was always happy to learn something new from someone like Syd! I was also happy to buy it back at his auction, and offer it again, this time with a much better description that puts the coin into its fascinating context. This is a coin that the advanced Washingtonia collector should be just as excited about.....\$550

In the special PCGS slab for Syd Martin's collection, accompanied by his original handwritten envelope.

A 1793/2 Washington Ship Halfpenny, Late Reverse State



69. 1793/2 Washington Ship Halfpenny. Musante GW-20, Baker-18, W-10855. Copper. Lettered Edge. Very Fine, a well-struck example of this popular issue, surprisingly so given that the reverse die is heavily buckled and failing! The legends are full on either side, the individual letters all sharp, while the 1793 date is strong at the base of the reverse – a strong glass showing traces of the underlying 2 that was first punched in. Washington's bust is sharp, with just even wear on the high points, with strong facial and hair detail, his epaulet worn as expected at this grade. The ship on the reverse is also strong, the top center sail a bit weaker than the rest due to die failure there, the rope ladders and gunwales all showing sharp detail. The prominent die bulge at the lower right reverse found on late strikes is hair strong, and the reverse shows strong die clashing as well, with the ENT of PRESIDENT clearly visible on and around the Y of HALFPENNY, in incuse form. A prominent cud is in the left field before the stern of the ship, with a smaller one above and to the left. Clearly, this reverse die likely did not survive too much longer before shattering. Medium brown with slightly lighter highlights, the surfaces hard for a circulated coin. A few marks from circulation, as is typical for the grade, including a few rim tics, but nicely free of the roughness often found on the type. We have seen pieces with the same level of wear make it into EF slabs. This coin is also part of the British Conder token series, where it is listed as Dalton & Hamer Middlesex 1051. This example has an edge lettering similar to other Condors of the period, reading PAYABLE IN ANGLESEY LONDON OR LIVERPOOL. There are also an extremely rare plain edge version and a brass striking of this type known. Syd Martin's EF brought \$1,440 just a few months ago in the October 2022 auction of the first part of his Washingtonia – that one showed a bit more detail on Washington's bust than this coin, the reverses about similar. But this one has the benefit of being over a grand less expensive!.....\$425

***A Very Nice Example of the Rare Small Buttons
Washington Grate Halfpenny***



70. 1795 Washington Grate Halfpenny. Musante GW-50, Baker-29D, W-10950, Dalton & Hamer Middlesex 284. **Small Buttons. Engrailed (Diagonally Reeded) Edge. Choice About Uncirculated**, a lovely example of this type, and even nicer that it is the much rarer Small Buttons variety. Generally well struck, the bust of Washington flat on the high points, which is not from wear but from die polishing – the coiner tried to polish out the die break and light cuds at the left obverse, still visible below the TON of WASHINGTON, with a break extending under the word THE as well. This over-zealous polishing likely prolonged the life of the die, but altered the size of the buttons on Washington’s coat – and, far easier to see, removed the upper part of his ponytail, so that the lower portion and ribbon tying it are hanging in mid-air. The legends are full on either side, the letters mostly bold, the exception being the ON of LONDON below the stove on the reverse which is nearly always seen weak – this area is directly opposite the deepest part of Washington’s hair on the obverse, and the metal flowed there. A piece that spent very little time in circulation, picking up a couple microscopic contact marks, but nothing distracting, and the overall look is choice for the grade. Properly listed as a British Conder token, struck for the London firm of Clark & Harris, this small button variation is given a separate number in the Dalton & Hamer book (the large button type is Middlesex 283, and is known with a lettered edge, as well as the edge engraving going both to the left and to the right – the latter something not usually noticed by American collectors, but which required a completely different edging device). The Grate Halfpennies are certainly “Tokens of Two Countries,” as the Washington image has insured their place in the American colonial series, despite the fact that none would have actually circulated here. Though made for circulation and not for collectors, some did invariably find their way into the cabinets of Conder enthusiasts, meaning there is a small supply of choice specimens – far more for the large button type than the small. George Fuld estimated the small button type to be 5 times rarer than the large, and this ratio seems to be correct based on the numbers of each type submitted to the grading services. Only a few have been certified as fully uncirculated, and a nice AU is generally about the best that a collector can hope to find (indeed, the last Unc. to sell in the Stack’s Bowers archive was 13 years ago!). A coin that will fit into any choice collection of Washingtonia, priced at just.....\$650

A Pleasing, Lightly Circulated Washington Liberty And Security Penny

The largest, heaviest copper coin in circulation in North America!



71. Undated (1795) Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-45, Baker-30, W-11050. Copper. Usual Lettered Edge. About Uncirculated, a lovely, well-struck example of this hefty coin, which was a whopping 1/3 heavier than the early date large cents! Struck in England, where this would not have been the largest coin in circulation, as Matthew Boulton's Soho "Cartwheel" pennies were heavier still – but while Washington was respected in England, the coin was clearly not meant to circulate there, especially with the reverse legend proclaiming liberty! Bold as expected for the grade, the legends and design details sharp. Light wear on Washington's wig curl above his ear and the eagle's breast, the two highest points of the design. Pleasing light brown and lighter tan color, the surfaces are hard and though they appear perfect at first glance, we note a nick between Washington's chin and shirt ruffle, ancient and toned down. A few trivial marks from its short circulation do not detract, and the fields are actually quite nice for such a large piece. There are a fair number in high grades, including Uncirculated – many went into late 18th century British collections (including one to Miss Sarah Sophia Banks, now in the British Museum). But there are worn pieces too, and one wonders what value they circulated at – in either country! The really choice pieces can bring into the high four figures – a slabbed MS66 brought over \$7,500 in Stack's Bowers March 2015 auction, and another in the same grade managed \$6,600 in their 2017 C4 auction, while Heritage had a full red one slabbed MS65 that was just shy of the \$10,000 mark in January 2021. Luckily for the collector on a more modest budget, there are AUs and Choice EFs that sell for significantly less money – Baker's own AU brought \$1,680 in the 2019 C4 auction for example. This one is available for nearly half that price!.....\$900

A Pretty AU50 Liberty & Security Halfpenny



72. 1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny. Musante GW-48, Baker-31, W-11015. Edge lettered PAYABLE AT LONDON LIVERPOOL OR BRISTOL. PCGS graded AU Details.

A nicely-struck example of this popular type, and one that is almost unknown in full Uncirculated grade. The legends are bold on either side, save for the S of SECURITY which is partially weakened from the planchet edge flaw there. The central details are as sharp as they come – this variety is known for extremely weak strikes, and this (like others slabbed AU) are likely pieces that did not circulate, but just are flatly struck on Washington’s hair and the eagle’s breast. Nice medium brown color, the surfaces hard and free of post-strike marks. The edge flaw mentioned barely touches the base of Washington’s bust on the obverse, and adds a crude kind of charm to the piece. Compare the strike here for the only example of this edge type in the Stack’s Bowers archive in Uncirculated grade, the Norweb example, sold almost 17 years ago (an uncertified coin, whose cataloguer mused on whether it would slab as Unc, which it technically was, or a high-end AU due to the weak strike – though it didn’t matter much to bidders though, as the coin realized \$2,530). Struck in England, from dies engraved by Thomas Wyon, this issue comes with four different edges, three of them lettered and only one of those relevant to the United States (the Asylum edge); Walter Breen listed two additional edges, which were actually errors (the planchets had the edges lettered prior to striking, and the edging machine would occasionally slip, leaving out chunks of words). By 1795 the Philadelphia Mint was up and running, and any hope for a contract coinage should have long since vanished from the minds of British coiners, but a year earlier the Mint had come under Congressional scrutiny for their inability to get copper coins in circulation (at least outside of Philadelphia), and that may have briefly raised hopes for a contract coinage from England once again. One can argue the merits of putting a piece that had a pre-strike planchet flaw into a details holder – had the coin been submitted the second it fell off the press and was still full mint red, the flaw would have been there, and one doubts it would have received an “MS70 Details” grade! The Heritage archives show just a pair in slabbed Uncirculated grades, including an MS63 that showed marginally more detail than this, but had clear traces of mint luster, which brought \$4,600 way back in May 2008! Norm Peters’ PCGS AU brought \$1,560 in Stack’s Bowers June 2021 sale of his collection, the most recent auction appearance for a slabbed AU we have located. The neat planchet flaw keeps the price at a fraction of that level, just.....\$500

A Pretty, Rarity-6 Admiral Vernon Medal Scarcer type with Commodore Brown



73. 1739 Admiral Vernon Medal. Porto Bello with Multiple Portraits. Adams-Chao PBvb 6-J, M-G 145. Rarity-6. Copper. Nearly Extremely Fine, a very pleasing example of a rarer medal. While most of the Vernon medals features portraits of just the admiral, there is a smaller group that show both Vernon and others, this one with a bust of Commodore Charles Brown who was instrumental in the surrender of Boca Chica. The Spanish governor of the area surrendered, giving Brown his sword – but Brown said that he was only the second in command, and took the governor to see Admiral Vernon. In what must have been an emotional moment, Vernon accepted the sword and immediately presented it to Brown – and it is still in the possession of his descendants today. Brown is at the left of the obverse, holding a short baton, while Vernon is at the right, holding a larger one. In the Adams-Chao reference, it is noted that “a new engraver, ‘I.W.’ brings a slightly new treatment, new legends, and some new letter punches. He is the first in the PBvb series to employ raised, dentilated rims and a flat edge.” Attractive medium brown, the surfaces mostly hard and without the usually-seen roughness or planchet issues that often plague the Vernon medals. Light, even wear suggests use as a pocket piece more than any sort of actual circulation, and while that term is ridiculously overused in numismatic cataloguing, sometimes it does appear to be accurate. The Vernon medals did circulate, judging by the average grade of known specimens which has to be under VF as a whole (and probably closer to Fine) – though at what value has never been explained. These large-sized ones are much bigger than British halfpence, the largest copper coin in circulation in England at the time. Later reverse die state than the Martin or Adams-Chao pieces, with light “stretch marks” extending from the city at the top to the legends. The only example of the variety found in the Stack’s Bowers archive is the Syd Martin piece, slabbed as a full EF, and showing the same overall detail as this one, though with significant verdigris and spotting, and this example is far more attractive; we also think the Choice VF grade is more appropriate, despite Syd’s piece being called EF. Very pleasing in every respect, available for just.....\$350

An Inexpensive Vernon Fort Chagre Medal

Ex Syd Martin collection



74. 1739 Admiral Vernon Medal. Fort Chagre. Adams & Chao FCv 14-S. Rarity-5. Copper. PCGS Graded Fine12, an accurate grade. A rather different style than the usually-seen Vernon medals, this featuring a multi-tiered fort at the left, a standing full-length depiction of Vernon standing on grassy ground in the center, and a single ship at the right; in the left obverse field is the legend *A VIEW OF FORT CHAGRE*. The reverse is the usually-seen depiction of ships in a semicircular harbor, anchored by forts at each side – not that they were much help in the defense, especially as the fort had only four guns, a couple dozen soldiers, and a small number of patrol boats – no match for the dozen ships under Vernon’s command, and the fight was over in just under two days. Though the reverse of this medal (and slab) state 1739, this battle didn’t occur until March of 1740, so the medals could not have been struck prior to that – though 1739 was certainly the start of Vernon’s glorious escapades during the War of Jenkins Ear, beginning with his amazing siege of Portobello that year. Evenly worn, nice medium brown, the surfaces surprisingly hard, with a small planchet clip visible at the lower left obverse and upper left reverse, positioned just under one of the prongs in the slab holding the piece, so not noticeable at first glance. No major marks or damage from circulation, and a pleasing example. The Admiral Vernon medals have always been popular with collectors, though was a very difficult series to collect since the reference works were fragmentary at best, starting with those in C. Wyllys Betts’s book on medals relevant to early America which listed a few major types but little in the way of die variety. The 2010 publication of the standard reference by John Adams and Vernon Chao changed that, and has one of the best titles in recent literature: *Medallic Portraits of Admiral Vernon: Medals Sometimes Lie*. The Adams-Chao book details all the known die varieties, with excellent photographs, and is a must have for any collector interested in this area. Vernon’s exploits did have colonial America relevance – the Spanish had been routinely picking off British ships from its ports in the Spanish Caribbean and their defeat opened up more safe trade between England and her colonies. Vernon was enough of a hero in the American colonies that George Washington’s home Mount Vernon was named after Admiral Vernon by Washington’s older brother Lawrence. From the Syd Martin collection, in the pictured slab, and the nicest example he was able to find, which says a lot!.....\$250

A CHOICE SILVER 1857 WOOD'S MINSTRELS TOKEN



75. 1857 Wood's Minstrels Token, New York. Miller-NY 964. Silver. Plain Edge. Choice About Uncirculated, very light rub on the highest point of the building design, with just minimal marks in the fields – a token that may have been used a couple times as admission to the show, but was carefully saved by some collector shortly thereafter. Lovely hard surfaces with ample gloss to them, with delicate gold toning. This neat token, roughly the size of a US quarter, was certainly struck in the 1857-9 period, as Henry Wood's Marble Hall, depicted on the obverse, was used only in those years. Prior to 1857 Wood's Minstrels also used silver pieces as admission tickets – but instead of struck tokens, they were counterstamped silver coins, mostly Spanish-American silver two reales coins (though a few are also known on the rarer four reales denomination, as well as a pair on early US quarters – one on a 1796 (!), the other on an 1806). There are a surprising number of the countermarked silver issues known, suggesting both wide use and collector interest in saving these strange pieces. The 1857 year on the token was both the year the new theater was built and the year that all foreign coins were demonetized in the US, which meant those earlier countermarked Spanish-American silver pieces would no longer be able to circulate as actual money – with the additional benefit of free advertising for the minstrels – and it is likely that the two things happening in the same year led to these silver tokens being struck and used for admission instead. Since this token had the same intrinsic value as a quarter, one wonders why it was struck only in silver, and not just in copper where it could be sold for a quarter and used as an admission token over and over, as was the case for other admission tickets issued for other venues, both earlier and later. Regardless, collectors of the era certainly saved some of these, along with the earlier counterstamps, and they are fascinating relics of a bygone era. We note a couple AU examples bringing \$312 at auction in 2020 and 2021, while problematic cleaned or more worn specimens have brought less. This example is quite choice and is priced at just.....\$150

The Marble Hall Theater, at 561 & 563 Broadway, had seating for 2000 people. It later became the Little Singer building to house the Singer Sewing Machine Company offices and factory, and was built in a lovely Beaux-Arts style. As of this writing there are two apartments in it for sale, including the penthouse at \$10,000,000, while the 6th floor apartment is a relative bargain at just under \$7,000,000.

*The William Pitt Sentimental Magazine Token,
Issued November 1773*



76. 1773 Lord Chatham (William Pitt the Elder) Sentimental Magazine Token or Medalet. Copper. Betts-522, Warburton 90c. Choice About Uncirculated, a boldly struck example of this popular token, one that never saw much (if any) actual circulation but has just very faint rub on the highpoints of Pitt's wig. Predating the Conder token series by 14 years, these small, farthing-sized tokens or medalets were issued by *The Sentimental Magazine*, a London publication that was issued from March 1773 until December 1777. As a way to attract subscribers the new magazine (which had much competition in the market), hit on including a free medalet with each issue of the magazine, hiring the industrious John Kirk to cut the dies and presumably strike them as well. In an advertisement prior to the first issue it was stated that "With every Number will be given a Medal of some reigning Toast, some great Personage, some Hero famed in the Annals of our Kingdom, or those of the Continent, some celebrated Patriot, or some uncommon literary Genius." In all, thirteen different medalets (and a few different varieties of some) were issued, heavy on royal and aristocratic personages, most likely done to attract the attention and patronage of these moneyed peoples – though oddly including a medalet for Oliver Cromwell, who was responsible for beheading a King (though that was more than a century earlier and forgive and forget, and all that). The only medalet in the series not honoring a ruler or aristocrat was one for famed actor David Garrick, who was also honored on a number of Conder tokens, slightly later. The price of the magazine was 6d per issue (equivalent to about \$5 in today's money), and the Pitt medalets went out with the November 1773 printing. Not surprising, many of the medalets that accompanied the magazine ended up in circulation, as they are the same size as the farthing – indeed, the average grade for Sentimental Magazine pieces is around VF, so they circulated for some time. These medalets were issued in silver, silvered copper, copper, and white metal, with the more expensive silver and silvered pieces available for purchase or to be used as awards for articles or poems printed in the magazine – though none have been found used as such to date. The William Pitt (Lord Chatham) issue is the only one listed by Betts in his work on American medals, and is always popular with American collectors due to his support of the colonies during the Stamp Act crisis – many colonial specialists will include this token with their 1766 Pitt halfpenny (and if they are lucky, farthing).....\$150

A 2018 booklet on this series by Martin Warburton, with a couple supplements, gives all the known information on the series, including dates of issue for each, and a numbering system. Please contact me for information on this inexpensive booklet if you want one for your library!

And a Few Counterfeit British and Irish Halfpence *Sold for the benefit of the Clem Schettino Family*



77. 1744 Counterfeit George II British Halfpenny. Not yet assigned to a family. Rarity-6 (estimated). Choice Fine, probably closer to a VF grade in terms of actual wear, the dies somewhat shallowly engraved, or not struck with enough force to bring out any of the deepest detail in those dies, a fairly common occurrence on the rarer George II issues; this was long thought to have been intentionally done to make freshly-struck coins appear worn, but that was most likely just a pleasant additional benefit to the counterfeiter who had less wear and tear on dies, and likely did not have the skills to deeply engrave dies to begin with. The legends are full, save for the N of BRITAN which is only faintly visible, and the date is strong. The obverse legend reads GEORGIVS, making it easy to distinguish from a regal coin, which has that word spelled GEORGIUS for this year; the GEORGIVS reading did not start on regal coins until 1747, though this is something that the counterfeiters would have likely known. Medium brown, very lightly rough, but with excellent color and eye appeal. A few light marks, including a nick on Britannia's upper legs close to her waist. The George II counterfeits are significantly rarer overall than their George III brethren, and aside from a few families like the Simian and Defiant Heads, have not been studied in nearly as much detail – something we hope will be corrected in the second volume of the series of books studying this coinage (work is being done on it, though likely at least a year or more until it sees print). There are only a few varieties of 1744-dated British counterfeits known, and they do all seem to be quite rare. Since this price list deals with rarities, we have selected just those that we think are R-6 or better to include here, though any sort of rarity rating is just an estimate at best. Clem thought highly of the George II counterfeits, and had this one priced at \$675, though we think that a more reasonable current value is.....\$100

Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin. It comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope.

A Scarce 1750 George II Counterfeit Halfpenny *With a cool reverse die break*



78. 1750 Counterfeit British Halfpenny. Not yet assigned to a family. Very Fine, generally well struck, save for the King's hair and the globe the seated Britannia sits upon – the same area often found weak on Connecticut and Vermont coppers, and due to the same cause: deeply engraved dies and thin planchets without enough metal available to flow into those areas. While not currently in a family, there are similarities to other George II issues, and it will likely find a home soon enough – very few George II families have been published or even examined yet in much detail, something that hopefully changes when the second volume of the series of books being written on these fascinating counterfeits is published. The legends are full on either side, the letters at the top obverse and lower left reverse weaker than the rest, but visible, as is most of the date. This is a known variety, and Clem seems to have liked it, having four examples in various die states in his inventory box when he passed away, this being the latest die state of the group, with a large break from the reverse branch reaching diagonally towards Britannia's head, and a smaller break at the X of REX on the obverse connecting to the king's armor. Medium brown, the surfaces hard to the eye, with the expected light marks from years spent in circulation – but no major defects or problems of note. Despite owning four, Clem called this "Ex. Rare" on his envelope, and priced it at a rather optimistic \$790. Again, we think this to be a much fairer price to both the buyer and Clem's family.....\$100

Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin. It comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope.

A Very High Grade Simian Halfpenny



79. 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny. Simian Family. Choice Extremely Fine, a high grade, very pleasing example of this popular family of British counterfeits, part of the large Simian family, named for the often-seen ape-like arms on the seated Britannia. Boldly struck, the legends, date, and all the design details razor sharp, quite unusual for this family which normally comes on very thin planchets that did not offer a lot of metal to flow into the deepest parts of the dies – this one weighing just 88.4 grains! There is a large area of die swelling between the N of BRITAN and the seated figure's head, and lighter swelling behind her head, continuing around the rim above NIA, all the way down to the last digit of the date. Dark brown, the surfaces hard, a bit glossy, and with the absolute minimum of marks from a very brief time spent in circulation. A slightly out of round planchet adds to the crude charm of the handcut dies. While some counterfeits are quite well-made, others are so obvious as to not require much explaining to a new collector, and Simians fit that bill. This very large family of counterfeits contains almost every type of copper coin that would be found in circulation in the late 19th century – William III halfpence, George II, and George III halfpence for both England and Ireland, and George II and George III British farthings. The only type not seen yet for the Simian family is an Irish farthing – though so few regals of that type were made they would not have often been found in circulation. There are even a few Simian evasion copper varieties, two of which pair an evasion obverse with counterfeit British and Irish reverses! The Simian family has nearly all of its dies completely hand-engraved, including the letters and numbers, with no punches used. There are hundreds of individual dies, and the vast majority look like the work of a single engraver – yet there is remarkably little die-sharing. It is likely that most of these dies were sold to other counterfeiters who struck a variety or two or three each before retiring, getting caught, or having the dies they bought break, and then buying new dies to continue their money-making scheme. Some Simian varieties are quite rare, and likely had small numbers initially coined, especially if dies broke early. Others, like this particular variety, are more common, though seldom found anywhere near this choice! Clem had this priced at a more realistic \$525, and given the very choice color, surface, and strike a fair price today is.....\$175

Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin. It comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope.

A Pleasing 1781 Irish Counterfeit from the Frontline Mike Ringo Collection



80. 1781 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny. **Nearly Extremely Fine**, this coin was in the collection of the late Mike Ringo, appearing as Lot 6035 of the Stack's January 2008 offering of the best of his counterfeit collection. Plated in that sale, it was catalogued as:

Almost Extremely Fine. 105.4 grains. Pleasing light brown with good gloss despite some shallow reverse pitting. Struck slightly off-center towards 3:00, allowing a good bit of the beaded border and some of the die edge to be visible. Long old scratch faintly noted across obverse, interesting die crack under GEOR. A handsome piece.

From an unknown family – like the George II British issues, very few of the Irish counterfeits have been sorted into families, and only a couple found their way into the first volume of the counterfeit book series, though this coin will find its way into a family in the future, as there are several varieties known with similar style. This is one of those fun varieties that can be collected by die state, as early, middle, and very late states of this obverse are also known – check our FPL #25 for a very late state example. Clem enjoyed this variety and had multiple die states in his inventory box when he passed away. The Irish counterfeits generally skew a bit lighter overall than the British ones – as did the Irish regal coinage, though at 105.4 grains this is a bit heavier than the George III Irish counterfeits are usually found. A pretty coin in hand, this comes in Clem Schettino's distinct handwritten envelope, where it was priced at \$675, after he bought it at \$460 in the Ringo sale over 15 years ago. It's not often that you can buy a neat, nice-looking coin for 1/3 the cost of what it brought at its last auction appearance, but we feel that a fairer price for this coin today is\$150

Sold for Clem Schettino's family, they will receive the entire sale price for this coin. It comes in Clem's distinct handwritten envelope, with the original Ringo sale lot ticket inside. The Ringo sale lot description mentioned it came in one of Mike's envelopes, but that must have been discarded by Clem at some point and is no longer with this coin.

ORDERING INFORMATION:

- All prices include postage and insurance
- Payment can be made by check or money order or through PayPal at no additional charge if sent via "Friends and Family" from your PayPal account. Other forms of PayPal or credit card payments are also acceptable but are subject to a 3% surcharge to cover the fees involved. Zelle payments to (619) 929-7926 are free of fees for both of us
- California residents must add 7.75% sales tax to any purchase under \$1,000 (or provide a valid resale number when ordering). In-state orders of over \$1,000 are not subject to California state sales tax
- All items guaranteed genuine (except for those explicitly offered otherwise)
- All items come with a no questions asked 14-day return period after you receive them
- We are happy to e-mail photographs of any pieces in a larger size which can be enlarged on your computer screen for enhanced viewing
- We are happy to discuss layaway plans, with no interest charges added
- All coins are stored in bank vaults, and we maintain no over the counter facilities
- Your satisfaction is the most important part of our business

To place an order:

- **e-mail us at:** rosaamltd@gmail.com
- **call us at:** (619) 929-7926 (but please note we are on Pacific Time and leave a message if we cannot answer; messages will be returned in the order they are received)
- **write us at:** P.O. Box 3447, San Diego, California 92163



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